

# THE TIMES

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## Tomkins may go into new field

TOMKINS, the conglomerate, is to sell the City this week that it may add a fourth leg to its three main businesses — construction, food and automotive engineering.

Greg Hurd's chairman, to make presentations to analysts and institutions in London tomorrow and in New York on Thursday. The meeting is mainly about Tomkins' current trading with investors concerned about its exposure to the US automotive industry, but Mr Hurd is also expected to give an update on strategy.

Mr Hurd said that Tomkins is currently concentrating on its core businesses but may consider adding a fourth leg in the next three years' time. This would be in manufacturing.

Mr Hurd will also say that the company will continue to invest in its international garden of operations, including the US, Japan and Western Europe.

Corporate Profile, page 47

## ScottishPower aim

ScottishPower aims to sell the City this week that it may add a fourth leg to its three main businesses — construction, food and automotive engineering.

## US tobacco deal

US tobacco deal

## New firm's Isa

New firm's Isa

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EXTENSION?  
SPEAK HELPLINE

## Give a second chance, says minister

# Don't expel drug takers, schools told

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN who experiment with drugs should not be expelled from school automatically, teachers will be told in government guidelines to be published tomorrow.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, told independent school headmistresses yesterday that she understood parents' desire for "zero tolerance", but it was often better to give a second chance to lessen the risk of children sliding into regular usage.



Morris: no "zero tolerance"

In a speech to the Girls' Schools Association in Glasgow, Ms Morris said drug takers' welfare must be balanced against the need for punishment and the protection of the wider school community. Dealers would normally be expelled, but many head teachers would take a different view of "someone found with cannabis in their pocket".

The remarks were condemned immediately by a headteachers' leader. John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the authority of head teachers would be undermined. "Any kind of pressure on heads in this direction is unwelcome. There is a need to give a very strong message to children. It is difficult enough to keep schools out of the drugs scene," he said.

The guidelines on drug education, produced in consultation with Keith Hellawell, the Government's "drugs czar", will aim to reduce expulsions.

However, Ms Morris ruled out random testing of drug-taking pupils at state schools as a condition of continued attendance. Many independent schools — no figures for expulsions were available — test pupils involved with drugs, with parents' agreement, but ministers believe legal difficulties would prove insurmountable in the state system.

Ms Morris emphasised that schools would remain free to expel even for possession. They will still be expected to report drugtakers to police, although most such cases now result only in a caution. She added: "There has got to be a bottom line in drug education that taking drugs is harmful and wrong. That has always got to be the basic message."

Ms Morris added: "Drugs are a crime but they are also a welfare problem." Automatic expulsion could deprive children of support they needed to break a cycle of dependency. Once young people had been found taking drugs, it was usually too late to "sit them down and tell them not to do it", she said. Other agencies had to be brought in.

The guidelines will form part of the Government's effort to reduce exclusions by a third by 2002. Mr Dunford said head teachers would feel trapped between parents demanding a hard line on drugs and local authorities anxious to meet targets.



"So what if teacher's coming, it's cannabis, not tobacco"

which have doubled in the past five years to more than 12,000 a year in state schools. They will advocate specialist education from the age of five and use of a wider range of punishments for drugs offences.



A bewigged Lord Irvine of Lairg, wearing his breeches, tights and buckle shoes

## Lord Chancellor told he may abandon breeches

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor yesterday won the right to wear black trousers and drop his ceremonial dress of breeches, tights and buckled shoes.

After a two-hour debate in which more than 25 peers spoke, the House of Lords voted by 145 to 115 to allow Lord Irvine of Lairg to wear the more modern attire of plain trousers and shoes. Although the decision is with immediate effect, however, he will have to wait for a few more days before he can dress down.

For Lord Irvine, a man who spent £650,000 to wallpaper his flat, an ordinary pair of black trousers is not enough. Instead, the Lord Chancellor is to order a bespoke pair costing £300 from Ede & Ravencroft, the legal tailors in Chancery Lane. The cost will be met from his official dress allowance.

During a debate that alternated between the silly and the solemn, Lord Irvine watched from the woodcock as peers

considered his two demands: first, he should be able to update his clothes beneath the waist while keeping his day-time upper attire of full-bottomed wig and court gown. Second, he should be allowed to spend more time behind the dispatch box when steering his own legislation. At present, he speaks mostly from the woodcock.

As Speaker, Lord Irvine did not contribute to the debate, but despite fervent opposition he won on both counts. As the result was announced, one peer reduced the House — and the Lord Chancellor — to laughter by shouting: "When's he going to get 'em off, then?"

Although the debate was unwhipped, a high turnout on the Government benches raised suspicions that Labour peers had unofficially been encouraged to help their Lord Chancellor in his time of need.

The Lord Chancellor will continue to wear his full ceremonial dress — grander than

his daily attire — at state occasions, such as next week's State Opening of Parliament.

Traditionalist peers argued that the Lord Chancellor was diminishing the stature of his office and said the plan was part of a wider government agenda to chip away at parliamentary traditions. The modernisers — from all sides of the House — said the changes were modest, did not represent the thin end of the constitutional wedge, and wondered if the debate was the most profitable way of spending vital parliamentary time.

Lord Ewing of Kirkford, a former Labour MP, reminded peers that usually "you canna talk the breeks o' a highlander" like Lord Irvine but insisted he should be allowed to wear "the garb of 1998". Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, argued that any changes should be left until the Government began its wider reforms of the Upper House.

## £120m cash aid for farmers

Emergency aid of £120 million was announced to help British beef, sheep and dairy farmers through the worst agricultural crisis since the 1930s. There will be extra for pigs in hill regions, but none for those in lowlands. Pages 2, 19

## Cosmetics ban

British cosmetics companies will have to move their animal tests abroad following a ban. Animal welfare organisations greeted the announcement as a triumph. Page 6

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## Ousting Saddam is now West's aim

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday committed Britain to working with the United States to secure the removal of President Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq.

In an apparent extension of Britain's aims in the long-running conflict with Saddam, Mr Blair said he was looking with the Americans at ways in which opposition parties could be bolstered and "improving the possibility of removing Saddam Hussein altogether."

"We want to see the Iraqi people governed by a regime other than that of Saddam Hussein," he told William Hague.

America and Britain were "literally minutes" away from launching air strikes against Iraq on Saturday. And he promised that he would have no hesitation in ordering future strikes.

"If he again obstructs the work of the inspectors, then we strike. No warnings. No wrangling. No negotiations. No last minute letters. The next withdrawal of cooperation and he will be hit."

He revealed that a private warning had been sent to President Saddam through the Iraqi permanent representative at the United Nations last Thursday that a substantial military strike was imminent.

Continued on page 2, col 4

## Downing Street aide to earn more than Blair

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE drugs czar, Keith Hellawell, tops the pay league for Tony Blair's 70-strong team of political aides and special advisers, and will earn £106,057 a year from next month — more than the Prime Minister himself.

Mr Blair is entitled to £147,816 a year — this includes his MP's salary of £45,066 — but he claims just £105,233. Mr Hellawell's salary is followed closely by Jonathan Powell, the former diplomat and now chief of staff at 10 Downing Street, and Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's official spokesman and spin doctor, who will both receive £91,014 — more than the take-home pay of a Cabinet Minister. They are entitled to earn £106,716 a year but actually claim £90,267.

Conservatives immediately dubbed the advisers "New Labour's fat cats". Mr Powell and Mr Campbell were

given a two per cent rise in April and will receive the top-up for their new pay deals next month. The total percentage rise for the three was not disclosed last night to MPs, nor was the information available at the Cabinet Office.

The pay scales of the trio are outside the normal range for advisers brought into the Government by Ministers. Last night Mr Campbell said he had "no idea" how much he earned and added that he merely "handed it over" to his family — his partner, Fiona Millar, and their three children.

However, several political aides received rises more than three times the inflation target set by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and won 6.7 per cent increases — while everyone received at least 3.5 per cent, also one percentage point above the 2.5 per cent target.

They were not ashamed of the figures and a Cabinet Office spokeswoman said the Government had always pledged they would create a strong centre with political drive.

"The Government makes no apology for strengthening its policy effectiveness in this way," she said.

But Michael Ancram, Conservative Party chairman, said the new salary structure "shows where the real power lies in Labour. It is with the unaccountable army of political henchmen that have been brought into the Government at the taxpayer's expense."

He called on Mr Blair to make clear the pay arrangements for the whole army of political staff at Downing Street and the rest of Whitehall.


The pay rises were made as part of a new three-band salary structure for Ministers' advisers — with annual starting salaries up from £24,549 a year to £26,056 and rising to a maximum of £76,056, compared to £73,484

previously. In the past, special advisers have been paid in relation to their previous earnings.

But Ministers decided they wished to introduce salaries which recognised the individual contribution of an adviser. However, it was made clear that the salary review was "one off" and that in future advisers would not receive automatic pay rises.

Dr Jack Cunningham, Minister for the Cabinet Office, last night in a Commons written reply to MPs revealed that the average salary of a special adviser is £45,378 compared to £46,421 under the Conservatives.

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# Blair performs fanfare to much trumpeted hesitation

IN the Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on Iraq yesterday afternoon, we glimpsed a ghostly reflection of the weekend's events. As with the bomb, so with the argument: steps leading logically to a strike — then no strike.

Over the weekend we watched the elements being moved into place. BS2s were readied, allies squared. Stealth bombers and Tornados were poised. Tomahawk missiles primed, warnings given.

All that now awaited was the final push. It never came. And so with Tony Blair's long, closely argued, statement to a steady House. He wheeled his arguments into place, studied his logic on the launch-pad. Objections were countered, evidence stiffened and friends primed. Supporting arguments were ready on the runway.

The Prime Minister placed a mental finger on the logical button. Well into his Statement, all that now awaited was the final push. It never came.

The statement, much of it, could have been drafted for the moment of attack. For seven years, declared a tired, adrenergic but resolute PM, the Iraqis had railed on every obligation. "Iraq has lied and deceived and concealed and lied every turn." There was no trusting these people. "Huge questions remain", the United Nations Weapons Inspectors have proved powerless: "despite UNSCOM, Iraq still has weapons of mass destruction." The last time we trusted them, we had been betrayed: "Iraq ... resumed superficial



co-operation" but then thwarted "all but the most routine monitoring". And they had been warned — "that any violation would have the most serious consequences for Iraq". Now they were asking for it — "in flagrant violation of Iraq's obligations". A private warning had already been given — The argument was clear and strong. Those with texts noted that the Prime Minister was already nearing the end of his statement. There was only one destination to this logic, as clear as the location of Baghdad on a Stealth pilot's map: Saddam had proved himself an inveterate cheat, and invited the response already promised. There was just no point in continuing this diplomatic nonsense with Hussein.

Mr Blair drew breath and continued. We were to continue with this diplomatic nonsense with Hussein.

Yesterday's statement took a convincing run at a logical long-jump then, just before lift-off, aborted. The statement could have served as a trumpet-blast heralding attack instead it served as fanfare to hesitation.

Oddly, it was the stronger for that. Doubters (and the Commons contains many silent doubters) were reassured

that Britain and America were going the extra mile. The handful implacably opposed to force, poised to rail against aggression, were winded: Blair was giving the other fellow yet another chance. Only Labour's George Galloway (implicitly accused by his senior colleague Gerald Kaufman of being among those who "habitually toddle off to Baghdad to get their skins tanned and their noses browned") managed a fine and stirring intervention.

But the mood of the House was against him. It has changed, critically, since February. Yesterday's statement, a *reculer pour mieux sauter* if ever there was one, confirmed that. "Thank goodness they're there," said Blair of the Americans, "even if others aren't." He sounded just like Lady Thatcher.

There was one light moment. Future video-archivists, unfamiliar with today's idiom, may wonder why, when Tony Blair said "I mean, this isn't over until ..." and paused. Three hundred small grins registered the thought "... the fat lady sings".

## Hard-pressed farmers get aid of £120m

EMERGENCY aid of £120 million was announced yesterday to help Britain's farmers come through the worst crisis in agriculture since the 1930s.

The cash, targeted at beef, sheep and dairy farmers, with extra support for those in hill regions, is intended to cushion the effects of a collapse in the prices of almost all agricultural produce.

There is, however, no succour for pig farming, which is struggling against competition from cheap imports sucked in by the strong pound and is one of the few unsubsidised sectors of European agriculture.

To a chorus of cheers in the Commons, Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, said he was announcing the aid in recognition of "the exceptionally difficult times" that farmers were going through.

"I know the industry has been going through a bad patch," he said. "But I am confident that it has a prosperous future. To get there it needs our support now, and that is what I am providing."

He added: "Trading conditions will remain tough in the months ahead. But I hope that this package and the commitment to generating a vision for agriculture will give the industry the boost it needs to face the future with confidence."

Nick Brown recognises the crisis hitting British farms, writes Michael Hornsby

Mr Brown said he hoped to be able to announce further good news next week when he would be seeking the agreement of other EU farm ministers in Brussels to an easing of the ban on British beef exports.

Tim Yeo, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, welcomed the Government's recognition "that agriculture in general, and livestock farms in particular, face a grave crisis that threatens the survival of many businesses".

But Mr Yeo said the aid was a palliative which treated the symptoms rather than the cause of farmers' problems.

"The reason this second farm rescue package in a year is needed is because the downturn in farm incomes, like the downturn in the whole economy, was made in Downing Street," he said. "The level of the pound during the last 18 months has been a far more

important cause of falling farm income than the weather."

Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the aid package would provide a welcome confidence boost and "a short-term safety net for some farmers teetering on the brink of financial collapse".

He added: "The package itself cannot cure all the ills of British farmers, particularly, for instance, in the pig sector. We need continued government and Bank of England action to put downward pressure on interest rates and sterling."

The two main elements of the package are £60 million in extra support for hill farmers, which will be funded entirely from government coffers, and £48.3 million for beef farmers, about a third of which will be paid for by the EU. The aid to beef farmers will mean an extra subsidy of £29.50 a cow.

A third element is a reprieve for special payments to farmers to slaughter and destroy within three weeks of birth male calves which have no market because of the ban on exports. These subsidies had been due to end on November 30 but will now continue until at least the end of next March. By that time some beef exports should have resumed.



Relaxed: Camilla Parker Bowles out hunting yesterday

## Cheerful Camilla enjoys media glare

CAMILLA Parker Bowles ended her self-imposed media purdah yesterday and smiled for photographers before riding with the Beaufort Hunt (writes Simon de Bruxelles).

The unprecedented and willing co-operation by the friend of the Prince of Wales was a contrast to previous encounters when she has grimaced through cigarette smoke and ridden off in the opposite direction.

Mrs Parker Bowles stopped her horse and sat for pictures after a groom from Prince Charles's, Highgrove stables approached press photographers. Fresh from hosting the Prince's 50th birthday party at Highgrove on Saturday night, she looked relaxed and cheerful as she rode out to join the hunt.

The Highgrove groom approached photographers and said: "She will pose for you today," before Mrs Parker Bowles sat back in the saddle, rested her left hand on her left thigh and turned on a beaming smile.

## Ashdown pacifies his party activists

BY ROLAND WATSON POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN last night told his party activists they retained the licence to fight Labour tooth and nail in spite of his strengthened links with the Government.

The Liberal Democrat leader said that last week's announcement that he was to deepen cross-party co-operation over a range of issues with Tony Blair need not clip his party's wings. "This is not about pulling punches," he told the party's Federal Executive after aides warned him of a rough ride ahead.

Mr Ashdown told the Liberal Democrats' ruling body that they risked jeopardising the greater prize of proportional representation unless they supported the new ties. He said the country would not support PR and its ramifications for coalition government as a concept unless they were given an example of successful partnership politics in action.

"You cannot argue or indeed campaign for PR and object to the co-operative style of politics which it will usher in," Mr Ashdown told them. He and Mr Blair announced last week that the Joint Consultative Committee between senior Cabinet ministers and their Liberal Democrat counterparts would be extended to cover Europe, welfare reform, education and health.

Downing Street was forced to play down reports that John Prescott was furious with the development. But Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Office minister and Downing Street "enforcer", appeared to confirm that the Deputy Prime Minister had not been consulted, saying the decision had been taken by Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown some weeks ago.

Ruth Berry, a Lib Dem executive member, said the latest move could prove a "step too far". "There may be a lot of people who are very upset and very angry."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Aircraft on standby for new year riots

Military aircraft will ferry police reinforcements to trouble spots if millennium celebrations deteriorate into rioting. Large helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft will be on standby as part of contingency plans for the millennium being drawn up by chief constables and the military. Specialist servicemen may also help to run utilities and public transport if civilian manpower is severely depleted by absenteeism or sickness. The talks follow concern among senior police officers at the problems they could face during a national four-day celebration.

## Threat to legal aid

Small legal aid firms who work in black and Asian communities will be hit hardest by government plans for contracting-out legal aid work, the Law Society said yesterday. The plans would "drastically reduce the availability of legal help in some of the most disadvantaged communities in England and Wales," the society said. The plans would also disproportionately disadvantage women solicitors.

## Church criticises BBC

The Church of England has added to the growing criticism of the changes to BBC Radio 4. Members of the General Synod, meeting in London, claimed that religious programmes had been marginalised, leading to a loss of listeners. A church review is already pursuing complaints that broadcast services have been cut and changed such that they no longer reflect normal congregational worship.

## 'No disarming, no exit'

Tory leaders increased pressure for the release of terrorist prisoners to be halted unless and until the IRA begins disarming. Michael Ancram, the party chairman, joined William Hague, the leader, and Andrew MacKay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, in demanding: "No decommissioning, no exit." Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, said she could not "rewrite the Good Friday Agreement".

## Tories target taxes

The Tories are to draw up new tax policies to favour married couples as part of a drive to promote the family. William Hague declared last night. The Tory leader used a keynote speech to the Conservative Christian Fellowship to announce that Peter Lilley would head up a new Shadow Cabinet taskforce on family policy. The group will study both tax and benefits to see if changes can be made.

## Lewinsky books author

Monica Lewinsky has secured a deal with Andrew Morton, the biographer of Diana, Princess of Wales, for a confession book disclosing the details of her relationship with President Clinton. Michael O'Mara, who bought the worldwide rights, said: "She likes the idea of an author who is used to writing sympathetic books about women who have relationships with powerful men."

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## Ousting

Continued from page 1 No timing was given, but no doubt was left as to the scale of what was intended.

Mr Blair said he gave final authorisation for the start of the attack on Saturday morning. Just two hours before it was due to commence, the West received word that the Iraqis had informed the UN that they were responding positively to a final letter of appeal the previous night.

Mr Blair said he had authorised the use of force with regret and a deep sense of responsibility.

"I saw no credible alternative. The UK's weight in the planned strike would have been substantial, including nearly 20 per cent of the tactical bomber effort."

Downing Street said later that Mr Blair's words reflected the view that Iraq, the region and the world would be better off if Saddam was not in power.

A spokesman suggested that Britain and America would work together to help in the propaganda war against Saddam, both within Iraq and abroad, by funding dissident radio stations.

President Clinton said yesterday that he would support a change of government in Iraq, and Mr Blair told the Commons that he shared the President's view, adding that the desire to remove Saddam was not a "goal of policy". The goal of policy was to diminish and degrade the capability in weapons of mass destruction, he said.

The Prime Minister said the world could now see more clearly than ever that Saddam was intimidated by the threat of force.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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MINUTE HE'S SWIFTCALL AWAY... SWIFTCALL... 034... SWIFTCALL

Close the road? That's a bit rich

Privacy for celebrities is a nuisance for old-money neighbours, report Susie Steiner and Rachel Kelly

A VITAL question of lifestyle has created a neighbourhood dispute between the super-rich and the merely wealthy. New arrivals buying £30-million properties want to keep the world away by closing off the street. Older residents with £15-million homes say that is just being greedy.

The argument in Kensington, West London, began when developers sought permission to close Earls Terrace to traffic, and install security gates with armed guards for pedestrian access. It was just the sort of paparazzi-proof privacy to lure buyers from among nouveau-riches celebrities, Arab sheikhs and footballers.

However, the site borders Edwardes Square, where their neighbours include retired judges and architects who quite like the right of way and do not want the change. One resident said: "It seems absolutely greedy to want a private road. It's over the top."

At the centre of the argument is a refurbished terrace of 23 homes with individual swimming pools and cinemas. The developers Northacre claim that their critics, including the former law lord Baron Griffiths of Govilon, are driven by "the politics of envy". John Hunter, managing director of Northacre, said: "It's new money versus old money. People don't want you to have what they can't have, particularly local residents who are inherently wealthy themselves. They get satisfaction out of stopping other people doing what they want."

The pop singer Madonna visited the site a few months ago but decided against it. Concern for the privacy and security for similar clients led the developers to seek to bar traffic

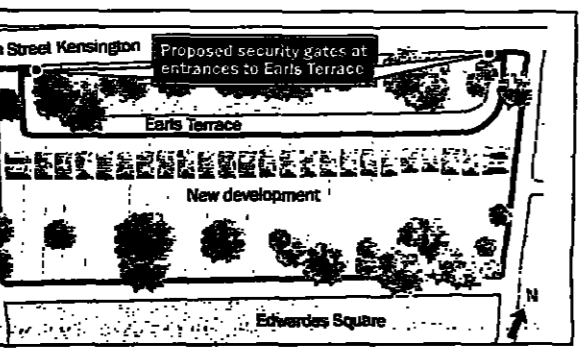


Buyers need not use the front doors in Earls Terrace, Kensington: access from the underground car park ensures privacy — at extra cost. Below: music speakers are hidden in walls, lighting can be programmed for entertaining, reading or vacation, and each house has a swimming pool



Pool included, but parking costs £50,000

BY SUSIE STEINER The pseudo-Georgian houses are a study in opulence, if not taste, on an excessive scale. The price includes a swimming pool in the basement and a spiral staircase reaching up to a 90ft garden. But neo-Classical murals are extra. For those who prefer drier sports, the pool can be swapped for a games room with cinema. At the touch of a keypad, the curtains close, the screen rolls down and a projector is lowered from the ceiling. The houses are fitted with invisible sound systems, allowing music to seep from speakers embedded in the walls. Electronic systems are integrated, allowing busy celebrities to program their videos from their carphones. Lighting is labelled for different occasions. The occupier can choose from Entertain, Reading or Vacation to create "the appropriately enhanced atmosphere". While ordinary folk might have a timer for the hallway lamp, these homeowners can have their security systems memorise the pattern in which they turn on their lights and replicate it when they are away. Homeowners "will be able to enjoy an exceptional level of privacy", says the brochure. An underground car park, fenced off by huge iron grilles, ensures direct access to the properties. The price of a space is £50,000. The gates are opened by each resident's personal radar device. A 24-hour guard ensures vehicles safe passage down the ramp, while security cameras monitor the inside of the car park and the doors into houses.



7ft man 'killed Wren during epileptic fit'

BY SIMON DE BRUKELLES

A MAN accused of strangling a young Wren claimed that he killed her while he was having an epileptic fit, a court was told yesterday.



Tammy Williams died after a night out

Steven Smith, 31, told police that all he could remember was taking Tammy Williams, 23, back to his flat for a nightcap.

Mr Smith, who is 7ft 1in, claims he then suffered an epileptic fit and smothered the Royal Navy photographer as she lay half on his bed and half on the floor.

But Anthony Donne, QC, for the prosecution, told Plymouth Crown Court: "This killing had nothing to do with epilepsy at all." Mr Donne said the Wren, who was based at HMS Drake, was forced to go to the flat in Plymouth in the early hours of the morning after a night out in April 1997.

He said: "She had to play for time and do her best to placate the defendant and cool things down. Sadly for her, it did not work. Her life ended in what must have been a terrifying ordeal. She was held by force by Smith against the back of a sofa where the life from her body was choked out of her." Mr Smith met Miss Williams as she walked home from a nightclub in the city centre. Two women heard her scream and one man said that he saw a couple arguing under

some injuries to her mouth and nose and some fine cuts to her chest from a sharp object. There was also a mark on her neck similar to that left by a ligature — thought to have been braid from the sofa.

Mr Donne said that hours later Mr Smith told his friend James Tennant: "I have killed a girl." Mr Tennant said: "I thought he was the worse for drink and fantasising. I said, 'Who is the girl?' And he said, 'She is in the cupboard — what shall I do?'"

Mr Smith allegedly told Adrian Adams, another friend, that he had been in a fight and thought he had killed someone and had a fit during the fight.

He also told his parents he met Miss Williams in a nightclub and took her back to his flat, where they had sex. He allegedly told his father they had a row and she fell over the back of his sofa and did not get up again.

Mr Smith later went to Plymouth police station and said he had invited the Wren home for coffee. He told them while there he had an epileptic fit and came to after noon the next day and found her dead. When he was asked if he killed her, he replied: "I had a fit and don't remember."

Mr Donne said that Mr Smith had a medical history of epilepsy and suffered seizures as a child, but nonetheless he rejected his story.

BA victory over glass claim by passenger

AN EXTRAORDINARY one-man campaign against British Airways took another twist yesterday when John Gorman, a retired policeman who claimed he had swallowed two shards of glass on a flight from London to New York, lost his claim for damages against the airline.

After five years of accusations against the company, including corporate bullying and tampering with evidence, a judge dismissed his personal injury claim and ordered him to pay British Airways's costs.

After the hearing, Mr Gorman claimed the case, which cost him £53,000, had left him penniless. He said: "I have staked my entire life savings on trying to win this trial. I only have a policeman's pension and a small house in the Canary Islands with which to fight this massive corporation. I am naturally disappointed with the judgement but I still maintain that bringing this action was the correct and proper course."

Mr Gorman alleged that British Airways had orchestrated a "dirty tricks" campaign against him after he complained that he had been injured by the broken glass on the flight in January 1993. Judge Anthony Tibber accused him of inventing the allegation.

Why BBC found Abba too radical

BY CAROL MIDGLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC has found itself listed alongside Stalin and Taliban in a book naming regimes that have banned politically sensitive music.

The corporation's decision to censor pop songs such as Army Dreamers and Walk Like An Egyptian from the airwaves during the Gulf War has earned it equal billing to more radical censors such as Stalin, who suppressed Shostakovich's work in the 1930s, and Taliban, which prohibits all music in Kabul, in a new book on banned music of the 20th century. Last night, Index on Censorship — the freedom of speech group that published

the book Smashed Hits — staged a concert of banned music led by the conductor Simon Rattle at the Union Chapel in North London. The performance ranged from Alan Bush, the British communist whom Rattle says was deprived of performances because of his politics, to Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, written when he was imprisoned in Stalag VIII during the Holocaust.

But Smashed Hits also lists pop songs that have been subjected to the BBC censor's rule. It states that, during World War II, the song Deep in the Heart of Texas was vetoed from BBC radio play on the grounds that munitions workers too often downed tools to join in the clapping. Wagner and other "overtly Ger-

manic" music was "effectively banned", says the book. In the 1970s, McGuinness Flint's anti-internment song Let the People Go was banned because of government policy on the IRA.

But it was pop songs banned by the BBC during the Gulf War that have merited their own chapter in the book. The BBC Radio Training Unit compiled a list of records that it believed should be treated with caution to avoid offence. They included Abba's Eurovision song contest winner Waterlo, because of its reference to war, Lulu's Boom-Bang-A-Bang, A-ha's Hunting High and Low, José Feliciano's Light My Fire, Nicole's A Little Peace and Tears For Fears' Everybody Wants to Rule the World.

Noye says press has convicted him of murder

FROM JOANNA BAILE IN MADRID

KENNETH NOYE told a Spanish judge yesterday that he intended to fight moves by Britain to extradite him for the M25 "road-rage" murder of Stephen Cameron because he had been "tried and condemned" by the British press.

In a private hearing at Madrid's National Court, he explained to Judge Baltasar Garçon that he was contesting the extradition on the grounds that he would not receive a fair trial in Britain.

Handcuffed and wearing a red, white and blue tracksuit, Mr Noye, 51, looked lean and tanned as he walked into the judge's office for the ten-minute meeting flanked by two Spanish police officers. Accompanied by his British lawyer, Henry Milner, and speaking through an interpreter, he told the judge: "I have already been tried and condemned by the British press, so a fair trial is not possible."

Spanish court officials said later that it was unlikely that the prospect of an unfair trial would affect the extradition procedure, which was likely to take two to three months.

A judicial source added: "If Mr Noye had agreed to the extradition, he would have been returned to Britain almost immediately. It seems he is just stalling for time, because the prospect of an unfair trial is not something that would affect an extradition in a Spanish court. The grounds for extradition are clearly there in that the allegations are of a serious offence, punishable by a substantial prison sentence."

As Mr Noye was taken to the cells following his meeting with the judge, he scowled and snapped "no comment" to journalists' questions.

Mr Noye is accused of stabbing 21-year-old Mr Cameron to death in front of his fiancée on an M25 slip road at Swanley in Kent in May 1996. He is being held in the top security Madrid III Prison after being transferred from a prison in Cadiz, where he was detained following his arrest at a restaurant in Barbate in southern Spain in August.

POLICE INTERVIEW TAPES SOLD TO PERVERTS. IS THE MET SO HARD UP? THE BILL TV FROM THE HEART

# Women call for action over failed surgeon

MINISTERS were urged last night to order a public inquiry into the career of an incompetent surgeon who may have maimed up to 180 patients before colleagues blew the whistle on his failings.

Victims of the gynaecologist Rodney Ledward, who was struck off the medical register in September, said an independent team was needed to investigate how he was allowed to continue practising for more than a decade, even though one in three of his operations resulted in serious complications.

## Patients seek compensation for botched operations, reports Mark Henderson

At least 40 are considering legal action, and East Kent Health Authority and Mr Ledward's insurers, for his private work, could face a combined bill of more than £1 million in compensation. Individual payouts could top £30,000 in cases where young women were denied the chance to have children because of unnecessary hysterectomies.

Campaigners said there were parallels between Mr Ledward's case and that of the Bristol Royal Infirmary heart surgeons found guilty in June of serious professional misconduct for continuing to operate when their death rates were well above average. Ian Kennedy, Professor of Medical Law and Ethics at University College, London, began a public inquiry into that matter last night.

Health chiefs were due last

night to attend a public meeting in Folkestone organised by the community health council to explain their side of the story to the victims. They were expected to face strong criticism for failing to act on suspicions raised by Mr Ledward's senior colleagues in 1993, and failing to investigate his work properly after negligence writs were issued against him as long ago as 1987.

Mr Ledward was eventually suspended in 1996 after a botched hysterectomy in which he accidentally pierced his patient's bladder. Although she had blood in her urine, he left the hospital and switched off his mobile phone, and was out of reach while she had emergency surgery to repair the damage.

Patricia Fearnley, a solicitor acting for at least 35 victims who are seeking compensation, said that urgent action was needed to ensure that lessons of the case were learnt. "We need to see examined the issue of unnecessary operations on women, the lack of proper regulation of private sector medicine and the problem of doctors being unwilling to blow the whistle on incompetent colleagues. We want to know why Mr Ledward was allowed to carry on operating even though his record was very poor." Mr Ledward is now thought to be working in the Middle East.



Struck off: Rodney Ledward, who allegedly boasted of being the fastest gynaecologist in the South East

## Patient was left 'crying in pain'

By HELEN RUMBELOW

RODNEY LEDWARD blamed Susan Martin, 45, for his botched operation on her bladder, saying that she was old and her muscles were "knackered".

She was left crying in pain for 17 days before he performed another unsuccessful operation to try to correct his mistakes. She was left with so much scar tissue that she had to have a hysterectomy.

"I still can't believe I was so gullible. When someone is in that position of authority you just trust them. I had gone in to make a small problem better so I could

enjoy playing sport. Afterwards I felt totally disabled," she said.

Mrs Martin, from Deal in Kent, became slightly incontinent when she played netball or did aerobics after having had three children. She was referred to Mr Ledward, who she said spent minutes asking her questions then said he would "operate on her waterworks problem but if everything else comes down during surgery it is unhealthy and I will do a vacuum hysterectomy at the same time".

He did not examine her.

Three weeks after her operation in March 1990 she had still made no recovery

in hospital. Eventually nurses told her she had to confront Mr Ledward and demand an explanation.

He came to her bedside and told her that it was her fault she could no longer pass water. He said her muscles were "knackered" with age and because she had been too old to have a baby at 32. "He said, 'I've done such a good job your husband will think he's taken a 16-year-old home.'"

She eventually visited another gynaecologist who helped her but she still cannot play sports. "What Mr Ledward did was damage a good bladder," she said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Children set fire to school bus

Twenty-seven schoolchildren were taken to hospital after a bus seat was set on fire yesterday. They were treated for smoke inhalation but none was seriously injured and all were allowed home.

The incident happened on a school bus at John Kyrle High School in Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Two pupils, aged 14 and 15, were arrested, questioned and released on police bail.

Police said it seemed that they had been playing with a cigarette lighter and an aerosol on the back seat.

#### Search for body

Police are picking through thousands of tonnes of rubbish in search of the body of a baby dumped in a bin three weeks ago by its mother, an 18-year-old student in Cavan in the Irish Republic. She believed her child was stillborn.

#### Train crash

A night train from London to Inverness with 95 passengers crashed into two stolen vans left on the line at Stalford Junction, near Edinburgh. The driver was treated for shock. Services were disrupted for most of the day.

#### Davies suspect

A man accused of robbing Ron Davies, the former Secretary of State for Wales, has been remanded in custody by Camberwell Green magistrates, Donald Fearon, 38, of no fixed address, is due in court again on November 30.

#### World Cup sale

The ball in play at the end of France's World Cup final victory is to be sold at Christie's in Glasgow next month. Bobby Moore's shirt from a match against Portugal in 1964 and a corner flag from the 1966 World Cup are also for sale.

#### Otter aid begins

Otters are being encouraged to return to the country's rivers in a project launched today with the backing of water companies. A holt has been built near Stoke Bardolph, Nottingham, one of a network throughout the region.

## Ageist employers are at risk of being called to account

EMPLOYERS who discriminate against workers or job applicants on the ground of their age will have to defend their actions to employment tribunals under government proposals to combat ageism in the workplace.

Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, is to ask chairmen of the tribunals to consider taking on the extra responsibility of enforcing a government-backed voluntary anti-ageism code.

Launching a draft version of the code yesterday, Mr Smith said that discrimination against older work-

### Tribunals offered new role in giving older workers a chance, reports Alexandra Frean

ers was no longer acceptable. He added that there was a strong case for companies to ensure that they had a mix of workers of all ages. "It is not a question of employers saying that they cannot afford to keep on older employees. They cannot afford not to," he said. "In two years more than a third of the workforce will be aged over 45. An increasing proportion of companies' customer base will also be over 45."

His remarks yesterday followed

the publication of a report from the Employers' Federation on Age, a lobby group representing more than 100 big employers, claiming that ageism is costing the British economy £26 billion a year in lost goods and services.

The draft code covers recruitment, retirement and promotion, and urges employers to treat staff according to ability, not age.

It asks companies:

such as "young graduates" in job adverts.

□ To use mixed-age interviewing panels.

□ To promote staff on merit, irrespective of age.

□ To consider offering job-sharing or career breaks as an alternative to redundancy.

Lady Greengross, director general of the charity Age Concern, welcomed the code as an important first step, but added that only legislation

would effectively outlaw ageism.

"With a recession predicted next year, even more older people will be in fear of losing their jobs and never working again. These people need to know that the law is on their side," she said.

The Public and Commercial Services Union, the biggest civil service union, urged the Government to "get its own house in order". A spokesman said that thousands of staff who joined the service late in

life wanted to continue working until 65 to earn a decent pension, but were forced to retire at 60.

The Government will consult on the code before it becomes effective in the new year.

The Age Discrimination and Employment Act of 1967 prohibits discriminating against anyone over 40, and employers can face huge damages claims if they break the law.

Earlier this year the Government ordered jobcentres to ban upper age limits in recruitment adverts and launched an employment programme for the over-50s.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Children set fire to school bus

Twenty-seven schoolchildren were taken to hospital after a bus set on fire yesterday. They were treated for smoke inhalation but none was seriously injured and all were allowed home.

Search for body

Police are picking through thousands of tonnes of rubbish in search of the body of a baby dumped in a bin three weeks ago by its mother.

Train crash

A high-speed train from London to London with 65 passengers crashed into two stolen cars on the line at Slough.

Davies suspect

Police are investigating the possibility that a man named Davies was involved in a recent robbery.

World Cup sale

The World Cup is being sold in a record-breaking sale.

Other news begins

Other news begins with reports from various sources.

Deal helps Man Utd to seek next Ronaldo

Belgian link will let Britain's richest club exploit a loophole over foreign players, reports Richard Duce



Ronaldo: United can now seek his young successor

MANCHESTER UNITED, Britain's wealthiest football club, yesterday completed a move to exploit a loophole in European employment laws that will help it to recruit emerging stars from South America and Africa.

Yesterday that the two clubs had signed a "memorandum of co-operation". He added: "We have not bought the club and this is not a takeover move. We have simply come to an agreement with them whereby we can send players to play in their team and gain experience and the situation will work vice versa."



Josephine the hornbill has died at London Zoo after delighting crowds since 1951

Oldest zoo bird dies alone after 52 years

A HORNBILL named Josephine, one of the oldest animals in London Zoo, has died. It was thought to be 52, making it the zoo's oldest bird.

Hyde Park bomb jury misled, judges told

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A JURY was knowingly misled by the prosecution in the case of the 1982 Hyde Park bombing, which killed four Household Cavalry and seven horses, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Search for a key to car lock mystery

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

MOTORISTS in a Cotswold town have been finding themselves locked out of their cars because of a mysterious failure of their remote control keys.

Advertisement for Compaq computers featuring Deskpro EP 6350 and Armada 7400 6300T models. Includes Intel Pentium II processor, RAM, hard drive, and graphics specifications. Price including monitor and VAT.

Advertisement for Direct Line car insurance. Text: "We'll do the rescuing while you do the saving." Rates: AA £126, RAC £136, DIRECT LINE £38. Call 0181 253 8118.

Vertical advertisement for The Royal Bank of Scotland. Text: "MOST OF YOU HAVE YOURSELF." Includes logo and contact information.

# Firms will sidestep cosmetics test ban

The industry will move its operations abroad, reports Nigel Hawkes

BRITISH cosmetic companies will have to move their animals tests abroad in response to a ban announced yesterday by the Government.

The industry is unlikely to suffer, since the number of such tests in Britain had dwindled to no more than a trickle — 1,266 last year. The decision to ban them was nevertheless greeted by animal welfare organisations as a triumph.

By voluntary agreement, the companies holding licences to carry out such tests have given them up and no more would be issued. George Howarth, the Home Office Minister, said:

Legislation does not allow the Government to revoke those licences, which would in any case run out in 2002. But the ingredients must still be tested, by law, so now the tests will have to be done somewhere else. Penny Hawkins, the RSPCA's scientific officer, said: "It's becoming increasingly easy for organisations to just move their testing abroad, to the United States and Japan

as well as the EU. It's so easy to export welfare problems for the sake of making the UK look good."

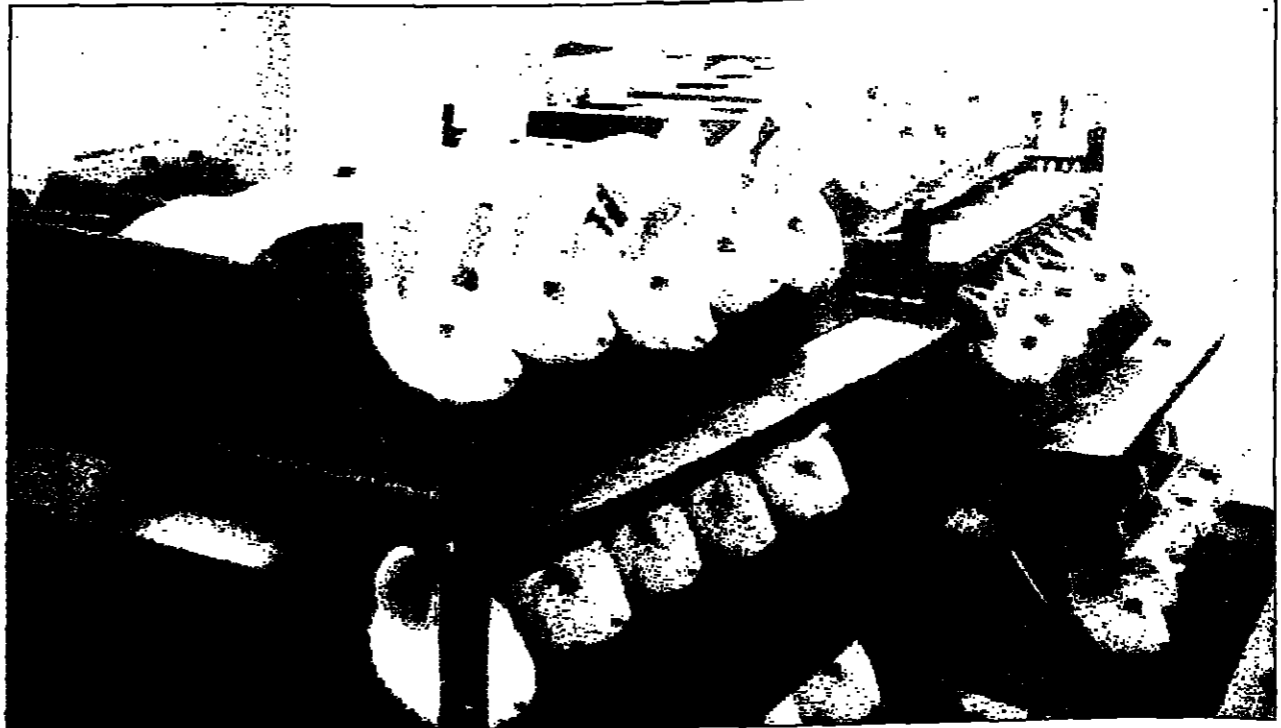
There are already far more tests carried out in Europe than in Britain — 30,000 last year compared with 1,266

here. Cosmetics testing amounts to a fraction of 1 per cent of the 2.7 million experiments a year involving animals in Britain, most of which are used for drug development, the treatment of disease, or in basic biological and medical

research. The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection said it was "ecstatic" at the ban on cosmetic-ingredient testing, which follows an 11-year campaign. Sandy Dodds of the union said: "Now we are going to argue vigorously in Europe for a ban on cosmetic testing there, too."

The number of tests in Britain was so small, cosmetic company experts said, that it no longer amounted to a viable business. Ten years ago more than 15,000 tests were carried out. The ban, symbolic as it may be, will change little. Legislation means that all new chemicals must be tested to provide basic data about toxicity, skin irritation, ability to cause mutations and cancer, skin absorption and other data. That applies to chemicals used in household products such as detergents just as much as it does to cosmetics.

For some cosmetic ingredients, further tests may be demanded. Sun filters, for example, must be cleared for that



Rabbits held in stocks for cosmetic eye irritation tests. Such testing has dwindled here over the past ten years

Mice	1,816,907
Rats	690,541
Birds	119,092
Fish	118,915
Galilee-pigs	83,246
Rabbits	31,833
Sheep, cattle, pigs	28,616
Cats, dogs	26,338
Hamsters, gerbils, other rodents	18,400
<hr/>	
Development of medical/dental products and appliances	945,420
Development of veterinary products and appliances	180,179
Fundamental studies of body structure/function	829,414
Protection of man, animals, environment (safety testing)	201,024
Breeding for genetic defects or modified genes	436,950
Other (education/training, diagnosis, production)	62,978
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PROCEDURES CARRIED OUT</b>	<b>2,638,969</b>

purpose before they can be used. When a new material is developed that may be used in cosmetics, the chemical company responsible for it would carry out such tests.

To keep consumers happy, the British cosmetics industry has not tested finished products on animals for some years, and usually picks ingredients that have been in use for some time — which means

that they have been tested, but some time ago.

In a letter to Roger Gale, Conservative MP for Thanet North, Mr Howarth said that the Government had not ruled out appointing a Royal Commission to review the issue "in the longer term", but that it believed it best to use available resources to make immediate improvements to sections of the Act covering animal tests.

## Lobbyists switch their attention to genetic research

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ANIMAL welfare organisations were looking towards their next targets yesterday, having achieved the ban on cosmetic testing in Britain.

The first, said Sandy Dodds, of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, was extending the cosmetics testing ban to Europe. "We would like to see a EU-wide ban on the sale of all cosmetics tested on animals," he said. The rules of the World Trade Organisation are likely to make that impossible, so a more limited ban, on testing within the EU, may be sought.

Another target likely to win public support is the widening of the ban on the use of great apes to include other primates, such as monkeys. However, monkeys are irreplaceable in some experiments, such as tests for AIDS vaccines.

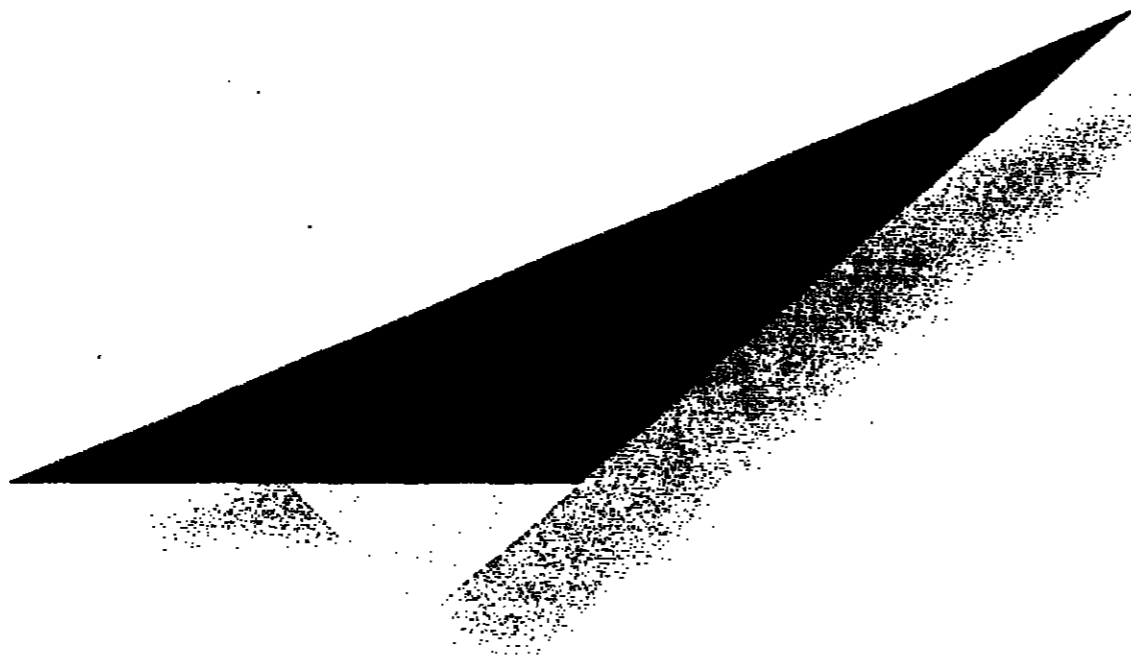
In toxicity testing, the LD50 test is a particular target. This is a test to discover what dose of a chemical will kill half the animals exposed to it. It produces highly variable results and critics say that it is of dubious value. Although the trend in animal testing is down-

wards, the big growth area is in genetic research. The development of "knockout" mice, in which one gene is inactivated, has provided a new tool for scientists, who use such mice to study the role of particular genes. The use of animals in genetic research has grown seven-fold in the past five years. "This is a major concern to us," said Mr Dodds.

Many campaigners argue that alternatives to animal tests exist, in the form of computer simulations and cell cultures. Scientists are keen to use such techniques, but they do not yet provide all the answers. "Much as we would like them to be, if the alternatives just aren't there, they aren't there," said Penny Hawkins, the RSPCA's scientific officer. "With much of the fundamental research, examining how drugs will be taken in and metabolised, the only alternative is not to do it."

"And we are living in a society that demands drugs. We have to weigh up the costs to the animals involved against the benefits to human beings of having new drugs."

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# Brain damage girl awarded record £3.9m

By Frances Gibb  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGE girl who suffered severe brain damage after surgery to remove a birthmark when she was five was awarded £3.9 million yesterday. It is believed to be the largest award against an individual doctor.

Helen Edwards, 17, went into the private Hope Nursing Home, Cambridgeshire, in 1986 for cosmetic surgery on a strawberry birthmark on her forehead. She was left unable to see, crawl, feed or talk.

After years of help from her parents, Roger and Brenda Edwards, and volunteers from their village of Elmsett, near Hadleigh, Suffolk, she can see again and has recovered some movement.

Daniel Brennan, QC, for the family, told Mr Justice McKinnon at the High Court in London that the settlement was "an enormous amount of money — the largest amount ever awarded against any individual doctor so far". The circumstances were "truly tragic".

The consultant anaesthetist, Thomas Ogg, admitted liability in 1994 but it has taken many years for the family to fight for the amount of money needed to provide for their daughter's care regime. After the hearing, Mr Edwards said: "This legal battle has taken a quarter of our lives, so we are very thankful that it is over at last."

He said that they had been encouraged by experts that "Helen deserves a quality of life, not just nursing or institu-



Helen Edwards has regained her sight

tional care. In particular, we must thank all those people who have helped us over the years, especially those who gave their time and who wrote witness statements on Helen's behalf."

He said that the £3.9 million would seem "a lot of money to most people" but Helen would need it to pay others to facilitate her every activity, 24 hours a day.

"As her parents, we will continue to work hard to ensure the money lasts to provide as happy and fulfilling a life for her as possible."

The settlement meant security for Helen's future. But he added: "The fact is that we would rather have our daughter back as she was, rather than all the money in the world."

The family's solicitor, Sandra Patton, said that the settlement was so large because Helen's disabilities were so severe and permanent. The other

reason, she said, was the recent House of Lords ruling that injured people should not have to make risky investment of their awards to earn sufficient interest.

"The money will be used to continue to pay the care teams and essential equipment and in due course to move Helen into her own adapted bungalow", she said. The judge approved a payment from the settlement of £150,000 to the parents who have given up their careers to devote time to their daughter.

Stephen Miller, QC, representing Dr Ogg, said: "I would not like it thought that this award will become a benchmark for damages of this type. This is a unique case and that is why the damages are so great."

Dr Ogg, who is retired, was indemnified by the Medical Protection Society, which will pay the award.



Brenda and Roger Edwards yesterday. They gave up their careers to care for Helen

# GPs fear funds move will make care harder

By Helen Rumble

ONLY one in eight GPs thinks that the Government's reform of their practices next April will make it easier for them to treat patients, according to a survey released today. Half said that the changes would make it more difficult.

Their main objection is to the primary care groups, under which GPs will form groups of about 50 to control the budget for local hospital care. Mike Pringle, incoming chairman of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said that the change had been driven through too fast and should have been voluntary for a trial period, like GP fundholding.

"This is an imposed change that did not come from the profession," he said. "Personal responsibility is diluted. In dealing with an individual patient, a doctor will have to be mindful of primary care group policy, to which he may not have contributed."

The survey of 883 GPs by MORI for Macmillan Cancer Relief showed GPs to be largely unaware or sceptical about

a cancer pledge that was also in last year's NHS White Paper. This guarantees that by the year 2000, anyone with suspected cancer will be seen by a specialist within two weeks. For breast cancer, the pledge starts next year.

Professor Pringle: "A hoarse throat might be the first symptom of cancer of the throat, but it is much more likely to be a throat infection. If every patient with suspected cancer has to be seen in hospital in two weeks the health service is quite unable to deliver that promise."

"If only certain patients with certain symptoms need to be referred so quickly, we need to have detailed guidelines."

A Health Department spokesman said that the scheme for primary care groups had the backing of GPs when the most recent proposals were released in June.

"We are shortly issuing more details about how it will enable GPs to put patients' needs at the heart of their decision-making."

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# Call for inquiry at hepatitis hospitals

By A Correspondent

THE Scottish Health Minister, Sam Galbraith, called for an inquiry yesterday into the hepatitis B scare at two hospitals. Ayrshire and Arran Health Board is offering counselling and blood tests to around 5,000 patients after it was revealed that a junior doctor was carrying the infection.

The board claims that the risk to patients is very low, but is sending letters to patients at Crosshouse Hospital and Ayr Hospital who may have come into contact with the doctor.

Yesterday Mr Galbraith insisted that officials had acted responsibly in tackling the scare. But he added: "I will be asking for a report into how well the guidelines have been

followed and how somebody has been allowed to slip through the net and work with hepatitis."

He said that anyone coming into contact with patients was assessed with a blood test before they were immunised, and were then screened again. He said that the guidelines were in place before the doctor, who no longer works for the NHS, was employed.

The board is contacting patients treated in the general surgical wards at Crosshouse Hospital between August 1, 1997, and January 31, 1998, and patients treated in the general medical wards of Ayr Hospital between February 1 and July 31 this year.

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# Tyneside opera house offers echo of Sydney

By Paul Wilkinson

GATESHEAD is to add a touch of Sydney to Tyneside with a £60 million riverside music centre that recalls the shape of the Opera House. Designs by Sir Norman Foster for the building, which will dominate the Gateshead side of the river, were unveiled yesterday and will be put to the Arts Council for funding early next year.

The design for the Gateshead Music Centre is reminiscent of the yacht-sail shapes of the Sydney Opera House, which stands beside a version of the Tyne Bridge. The designers of the music centre claim that its three "ripples" mirror the bridge's famous curve. The

Arts Council has already indicated that the project has a high priority, along with refurbishments of the Royal Shakespeare Company's theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon and the South Bank complex. The project team is led by Gateshead council; its public arts programme has already produced the giant Angel of the North sculpture. The new building is part of a £100 million-plus scheme to create an international visual and musical centre of excellence in the North East.

Work has already begun on the £46 million refurbishment of the nearby Baltic Flour Mills, a disused 1940s multi-

storey grain store, which dominates the southern bank of the Tyne. It is being converted into the largest contemporary visual arts gallery outside London. Both will be linked to the new Quayside quarter across the river in Newcastle by a footbridge, funded by the Millennium Commission and intended to open by the turn of the century. Its design allows the bridge to pivot upwards to allow ships to pass beneath. The entire complex is expected to create 1,000 jobs.

The music centre, which will provide a permanent home for the Northern Sinfonia orchestra, comprises seven buildings under one roof. It



An artist's impression of the £60 million Gateshead Music Centre, designed by Sir Norman Foster. The building could be completed by 2002

will provide a 1,650-seat concert hall, another 400-seater multi-purpose hall, a large rehearsal hall and a music school.

There will also be a regional music information centre and facilities for the Sinfonia and the Folkworks organisation, which brings together all forms of professional and amateur music-making in the region, from folk to classical. All

will be linked by a glass-fronted public concourse with views across the river. The information centre will be open 16 hours a day, along with a café bar, box office and shops. Up to 500,000 visitors a year are expected. If the funding is granted as planned by next summer, the building should be completed by 2002.

George Gill, the leader of Gateshead council, said: "We

will have a building which not only ranks as one of the best in the world for music, but will also be a breathtaking new landmark for the North East. "It's going to be an international site and I'm delighted with the plans. It's something the region has been crying out for for the last 50 years."

Tony Pender, chairman of the trust that will run the new centre, said: "It's about com-

posing music, performing music, listening to music, learning about music and joining in. It will be a building with open doors — a living breathing building which will be buzzing with activity."

John Summers, chief executive of Northern Sinfonia, said: "Not only will this groundbreaking centre fulfil a long-held dream by finally providing a much-needed world-class

venue for Northern Sinfonia, but it will also open up endless opportunities for the orchestra to work on a day-to-day basis with the community in which it serves".

Andrew Dixon, chief executive of Northern Arts, said: "Like the Angel of the North, it will stand as a symbol of Northern Arts' ambitions for the North to be seen as a home for world-class arts projects."

## Norman's conquest and the reshaping of modern Britain

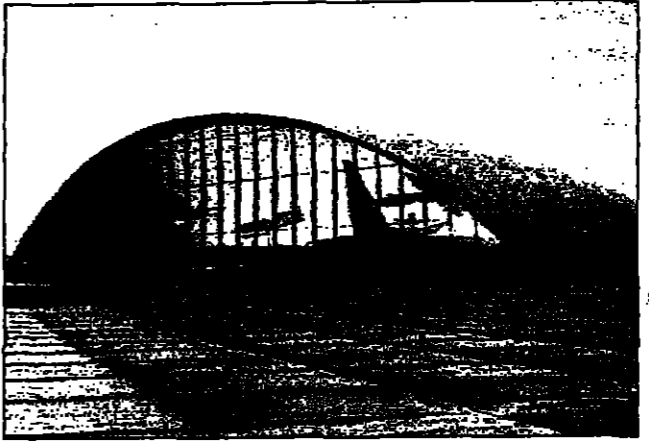
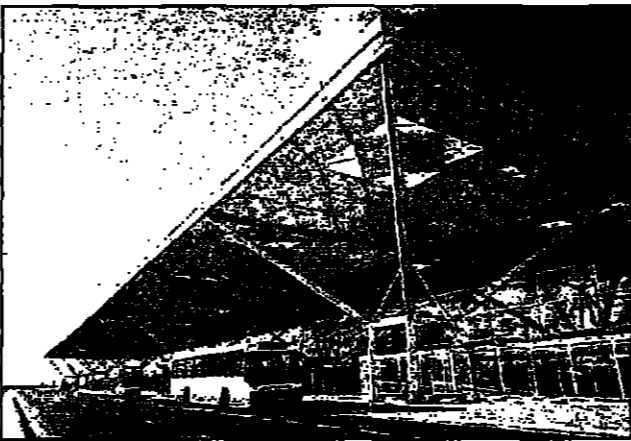
By Dominic Kennedy and Marcus Binney

THE Fosterisation of Britain continues apace, as the world's most commissioned architect seizes the chances offered by the National Lottery building boom.

As well as the new concert hall in Gateshead, Sir Norman Foster is creating a Great Court at the British Museum and a millennium footbridge linking St Paul's and Bankside in London. Both are largely paid for by the Millennium Commission, using lottery players' money.

Near the Dome, designed by his great rival Lord Rogers of Riverside, Sir Norman has built the breathtaking North Greenwich interchange, where visitors will arrive for the exhibition. Two of his ideas, a motorway sign system and a wind energy generator, as Millennium Products for possible display in the Dome.

Sir Norman's steel and glass designs were once main-



Sir Norman Foster and some of his innovative British projects: the Willis Faber and Dumas building in Ipswich, Stansted airport in Essex and the American Air Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire

ly used for business landmarks such as the billion-dollar Hongkong and Shanghai Bank skyscraper, the most expensive building of the 1980s. In Britain, his reputation for creating exciting corporate headquarters was sealed with the Willis Faber and Dumas head office, now a listed building, in Ipswich. He also creat-

ed the futuristic ITN headquarters in Gray's Inn Road, London.

The success of his Stansted airport design helped him to win the commission for the new Hong Kong international airport, the world's largest construction project.

But he is increasingly moving towards creating temples

of art. His Carré d'Art in Nîmes, France, was praised for bringing modern architecture into a sensitive cityscape, opposite a Roman temple. In Valencia, home of the architect Santiago Calatrava, it was Sir Norman who won the contract to design a new Palace of Congresses, shaped like an African war shield. His success

is a victory for sleek modernism. It leaves the Prince of Wales's crusade to bury modern architecture as doomed as the twin towers of Wembley Stadium, which are likely to be demolished in Foster's redesign.

His architectural practice earns plaudits as well as contracts. The saucer-shaped con-

crete and glass American Air Museum, opened at Duxford aerodrome near Cambridge last year, won a Building of the Year award.

Nobody can imagine Sir Norman saying that he is too busy to accept a commission. He owns the bulk of shares in the architectural practice Foster and Partners and makes

some individual contribution to each project won.

Continental Europe is becoming Fosterised too. He has converted a power station in the Ruhr into a museum of design while keeping original features like electricity generators, pipes and iron staircases. A 1.5-mile road bridge spanning the Tarn valley at Mil-

lau, regarded as the last great European engineering challenge of the century, is his.

And while Lord Rogers was chosen to build the home of the Welsh assembly in Cardiff, Sir Norman went one better. He won the contract to rebuild the Reichstag, housing the parliament of Europe's most powerful nation.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY  
Girls' h  
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mothe  
John O'Leary



# Girls' head stands up for single mothers

John O'Leary reports on a call for more flexibility in child-rearing

SINGLE parents are just as capable of bringing up children successfully as traditional families, the leader of Britain's top girls' schools said yesterday.

Jackie Anderson, the president of the Girls' Schools Association, cited Elizabeth I and Cherie Blair as examples of well-adjusted figures brought up in unconventional households. She said children would survive marital break-up if both parents continued to play a role in their upbringing.

Mrs Anderson, the headmistress of King's High School, Warwick, told the association's annual conference that most girls still wanted to marry and provide a stable environment for their children.

But they were determined to pursue a career and might postpone motherhood indefinitely if they felt the pressure of work was too great. "Society needs to be more flexible to enable them to keep their careers going and still enjoy their children," she said.

Mrs Anderson's positive view of single parents con-

trasts sharply with those expressed by the heads of boys' and mixed schools last month. Patrick Tobin, the president of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said that divorce was behind most serious disciplinary offences in independent schools. He said a survey had revealed that marital breakdown was seen by schools as a greater threat to "good order" than drugs or alcohol.

Mrs Anderson said the Government was right to emphasise the advantages of traditional family values in this month's Green Paper. But the reality was often different. "There are plenty of happy, well-adjusted people around who did not have the conventional two parents."

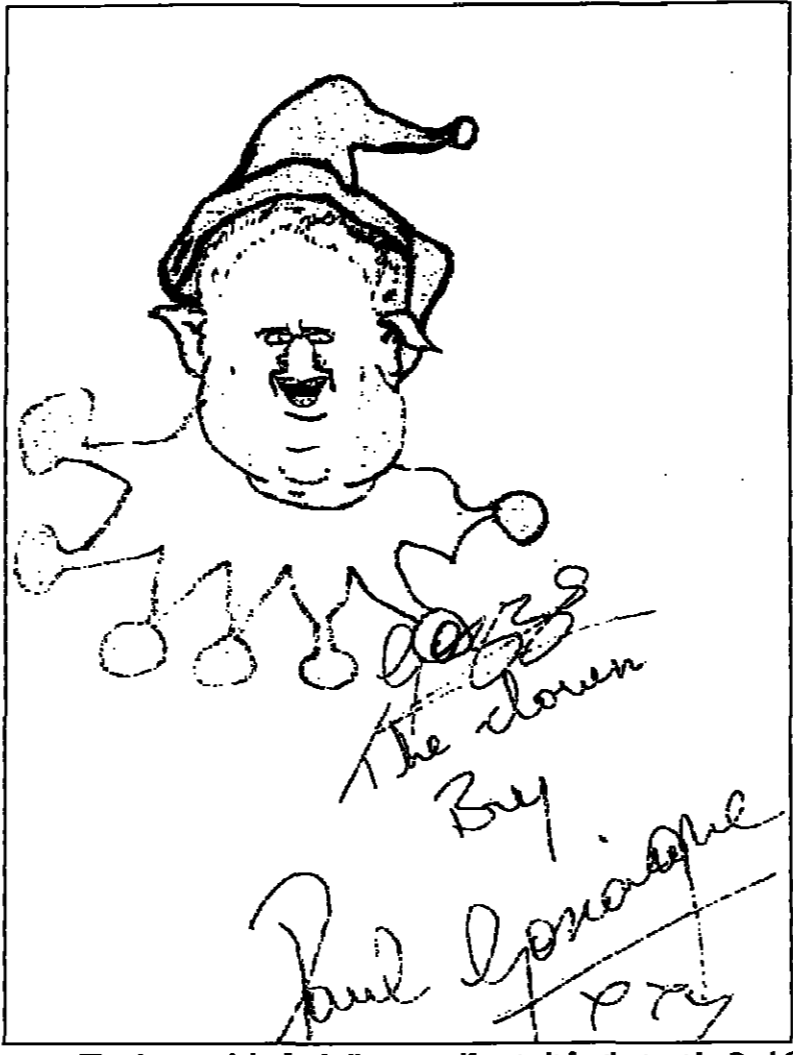
In her opening address to the conference in Glasgow, Mrs Anderson said: "I sometimes think of Elizabeth I — a highly successful leader whose home life offered a series of role models who taught her how to avoid following in their footsteps."

She said she shared with Mrs Blair an upbringing in which her grandmother played a large part. The Prime Minister's wife was looked after by her grandmother from the age of six weeks.

Mrs Anderson, who has been married for 35 years and has two adult children, said: "One person can be sufficient to nurture a well-balanced individual. Divorce is a fact of life but damage limitation is possible if parents can be generous enough to ensure that the child is not divorced along with the partner."



Elizabeth I: thrived in unconventional family



The clown and the football star: a self-portrait for the trust by Paul Gascoigne and a cartoon by his friend Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner



# Gascoigne plays the clown for charity

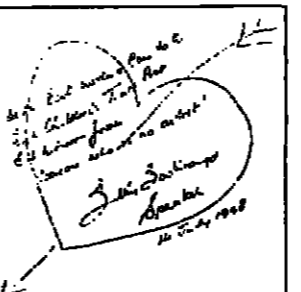
By PAUL WILKINSON

PAUL GASCOIGNE has made an art form of playing the clown both on and off the field, and now a self-portrait proves the point.

The Middlesbrough midfielder, once labelled "daft as a brush" by Bobby Robson when he was the England football manager, was among celebrities asked to paint a self-portrait to raise money for the Sick Children's Trust.

The result is a felt-tip sketch of a clown, complete with court jester's yellow ruff and red hat. Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner, Gascoigne's friend and minder, has also contributed to the Draw Attention exhibition. He has portrayed Gascoigne sweating in a Newcastle United strip as he strides down the pitch.

Yesterday a psychologist



From the heart: Betty Boothroyd's creation

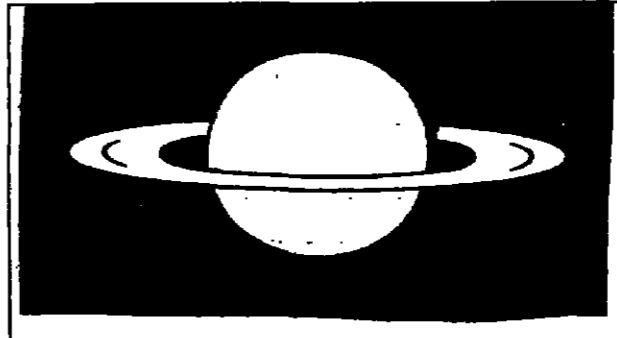
said that Gascoigne's self-portrait revealed low self-esteem. Professor Jenny Firth-Cozens, professor of clinical psychology at University of Northumbria in Newcastle, said: "This role is something people, especially children, often play when their self-image is not as strong as it should be."

One of Gascoigne's most fa-

mous stunts was wearing false breasts while riding on top of an open bus when England returned from the 1990 World Cup. He also outraged Italian television viewers by belching into a microphone when approached for an interview during his time with Lazio.

The exhibition, which includes about 600 works by celebrities and professional artists, is on show at the Halton Gallery at Newcastle University and will be sold in sealed bids on Saturday.

The television presenter Anthea Turner has doodled a horse's head, while Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons, has drawn a heart and the message "With best wishes from someone who is no artist." Other contributors include the astronomer Patrick Moore.



SATURN  
1997 December 27, 2350 GMT.  
15x Reflector. x 35x  
Patrick Moore  
Seby

The astronomer Patrick Moore's view of Saturn

# Mother wins fight to keep her baby in prison

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A PRISONER yesterday won her legal battle to stop the Prison Service taking away her two-week-old baby.

In what is seen as a test case for the rights of mothers in jail, the 24-year-old former psychology student is expected to be offered a place in a special mother and baby unit.

Three senior judges were told that prison chiefs had agreed to reconsider her application for a place at Holloway prison, North London, where she is serving a five-year sentence for wounding with intent after slashing the face of a love rival. She had been refused a place at the mother and baby unit because of alleged disruptive behaviour and because she was considered a risk to other mothers and babies.

A special admissions board meeting will sit at the prison later this week when an offer is expected to be agreed after a Prison Service climbdown outlined in court.

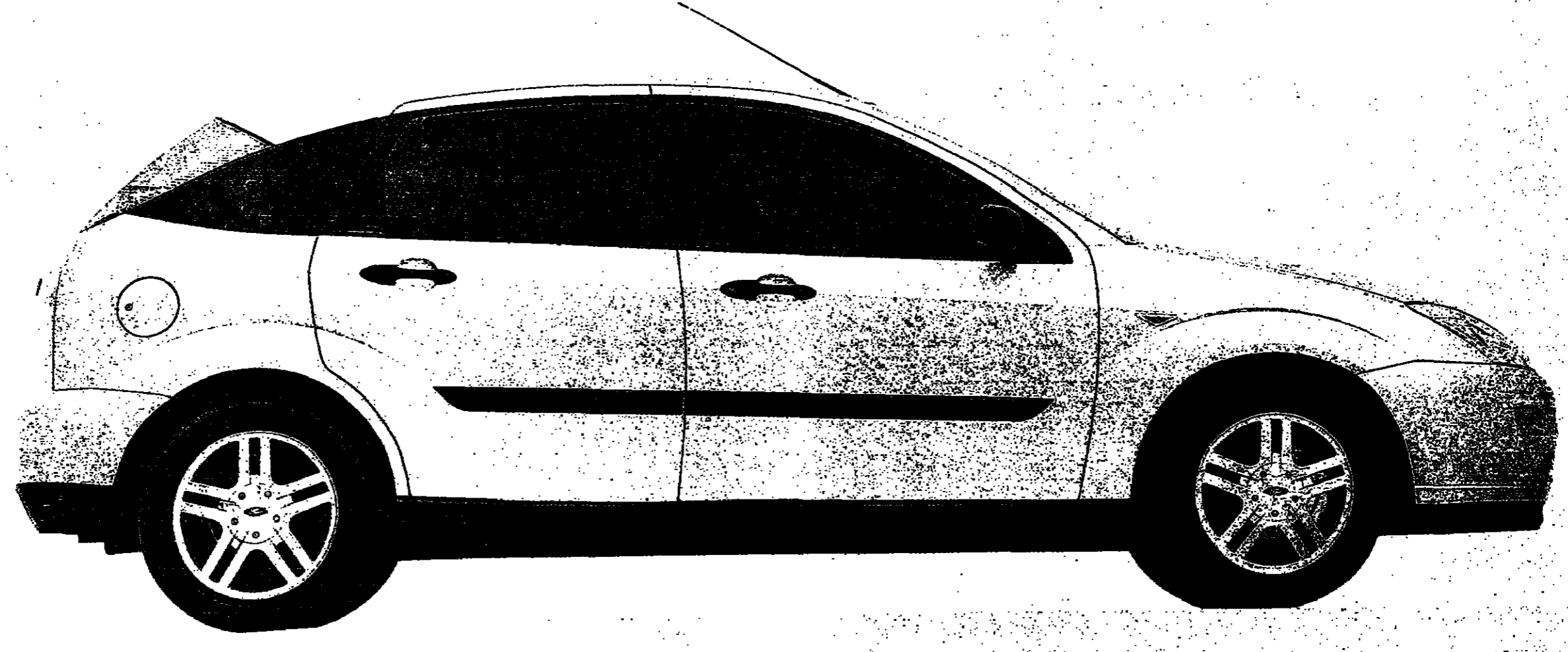
It emerged after the hearing that the Prison Service, which has four such units in England and Wales with a total of 68 places, will be reviewing its procedures.

Despite the outcome of the case, however, Lord Justice Evans, sitting with Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Brooke, warned the mother to "behave".

The hearing yesterday was the penultimate stage in a legal battle over the decision in September by Mike Sheldrick, the prison governor, to part Miss E from her daughter once she was born.

Holloway was accused of acting "unfairly and unlawfully" and failing in their legal duty properly to take into account the child's best interests.

Miss E gave birth under guard in hospital outside the prison on November 3 and has been breast-feeding. She denied allegations that she was involved in fighting, violence and bullying while in jail.



the new FOCUS



# An open and shut case for getting rid of hereditary peers

THE constitutional ping-pong between the Commons and the Lords over the European elections Bill is a ludicrous charade.

Entering its fourth round in the Lords this afternoon, the dispute shows what is wrong with the Lords. This is not merely the ability of hereditary peers to swamp the votes of life peers, but is as much about how the powers of the upper House should be exercised.

Viscount Cranborne, the Conservative leader, finds it hard to keep a straight face when he invokes democratic principles to challenge a closed-list election of candi-

dates. The Tories, who anyway prefer first past the post to proportional representation, are making mischief. Such tactics are the Tories' right and they know they cannot push it too far.

The issue itself, the choice of open or closed lists for the election of candidates, is, in practice, finely judged. Most of us would instinctively opt for an open-list system under which voters themselves pick the order of candidates on the list offered by the parties, or an independent candidate. This is in contrast to the closed list, the Government's preference, under which

voters choose between alternative tickets of candidates with the order of preference already fixed by the parties.

Rejoice for democracy: not quite. The open-list system has a number of disadvantages. It encourages candidates of the same party to compete against each other and may produce perverse results whereby some candidates can be elected with fewer votes than those who fail to be elected.

A closed list also allows parties to ensure that women and ethnic minorities have a better chance of being elected by putting them high-

**RIDDELL ON POLITICS**

er up the list. The choice is not straightforward and certainly not a grand matter of principle. My preference would be to allow people to vote for either a party list or a candidate. This might make little difference in practice, but it would give voters the choice. It is question of relative balance, not absolute rights.

The Lords has already asked the Commons to reconsider the matter

three times and, on each occasion, there has been a big majority in favour of closed lists. These exchanges could go on until the end of the current session this Thursday or Friday.

This could force the Government either to drop the Bill, invoking the cumbersome Parliament Act procedure to push the measure through in the next session, or to accept an open-list system.

The Lords have, in practice, accepted limitations on this unlimited power. After forcing the Commons to think again twice, the Lords have usually accepted the

will of the elected chamber. As Lord Richard, now the wise owl of Labour backbench peers, noted last Thursday, if these understandings were to break down, "the sensible constitutional relationship between the two Houses would also break down".

Strangely, the contrary view was put by a fellow Labour peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon, one of the most sanctimonious and disagreeable members of either House. Using the word "duty" eleven times in a brief speech, he said the Lords "has the right and duty to insist on its amendments if it believes they

are correct". On this view, the Lords has an absolute veto, and is not just a revising chamber exercising its powers with restraint.

This tiresome episode has shown that any reform of the Lords must focus on the powers of the upper House as much as its composition.

There will have to be formal rules on what the Lords can do, and probably some kind of joint conference procedure. Getting rid of hereditary peers is merely a preliminary.

PETER RIDDELL

## Field ups stakes on pensions

FRANK FIELD, the former minister, yesterday stepped up the pressure for compulsory second pensions (Jill Sherman writes).

Mr Field, who resigned as Minister for Welfare Reform because his proposals had been blocked, published his own ten-minute rule Bill which would require all workers aged 20 and over to contribute to a second stakeholder pension. Pensioners would be entitled to a flat-rate payment equivalent to 30 per cent of average earnings, double the current amount.

The stakeholder pension would complement the state pension and would be phased in over 40-45 years. Contributions would be earnings related. Poorest groups, carers and mothers with children under five, would be funded by higher earners' contributions. Ministers are still finalising their own plans.

# Inbred world of Welsh politics exposed by assembly challenge

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A BUSINESSMAN from Swansea, yesterday joined in the contest for the leadership of the Welsh assembly and in doing so highlighted the small and incestuous world of the Welsh Labour Party.

Roger Warren Evans, 62, the third candidate to stand for the office of First Secretary, is unusual because he is an outsider. That means he has never shared an office, a flat, a wife or a secretary with any of

the other key players. His prospects are said to be slim.

Mr Warren Evans said yesterday that his intervention is in part a protest at the infighting between politicians from Cardiff after the resignation of the former Welsh Secretary Ron Davies.

In the claustrophobic world of Welsh Labour politics the contest is as much about old friendships and old rivalries as it is about the future of the Principality.

First time around it was a straight head-to-head contest between Ron Davies and Rhodri Morgan. The MP for Caerphilly and the MP for Cardiff West were linked by more than their politics.

The former Welsh Secretary's right-hand man and principal political adviser was Mr Morgan's next-door neighbour, Huw Roberts. Mr Roberts lives next door to Mr Morgan in Michaelston-le-Pit near Cardiff, and his wife Julia is Mr Morgan's constituency sec-

retary. The two couples share a London flat.

Mr Roberts, who is working out three months' notice after Mr Davies's downfall, announced yesterday that he will be standing for election to the Assembly.

Mr Morgan is running against Mr Davies's successor

as Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, the MP for Cardiff South. The pair shared a cramped office for many years and were often seen out jogging together around Cardiff.

Mr Morgan's office is on the fourth floor of Transport House in Cardiff, while the main Labour Party office backing Mr Michael is two floors below. One floor below that is the offices of the Transport and General Workers' Union which has been trying to negotiate a unity ticket.

The suggestion was that Mr Michael would stand for election as leader with Mr Morgan sharing the role of deputy with Wayne David, former leader of the Labour group in Brussels.

Mr David's wife Catherine is employed in the office of Julie Morgan, wife of Rhodri,

**AN EVERYDAY STORY OF TAFFIA FOLK**

Meet Rhodri Morgan. He wants to be the First Secretary of the Welsh assembly...  
 Ron Davies had the job until he lost his way on Clapham Common...  
 Rhodri's adviser was Huw Roberts. He lives next door to Rhodri Morgan. His wife Julie is Rhodri's secretary...  
 Rhodri has an office in Transport House. So does Alun Michael. He also wants to be First Secretary...  
 He planned to take on the job with Wayne David as his deputy...  
 His wife works in the same office as Julie Morgan (above). She is married to Rhodri Morgan.

Confused? You will be



Warren Evans: protest against Cardiff infighting

## SNP denies 'subsidy junkie' slur on Scots

By GILLIAN HARRIS SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was accused yesterday of perpetuating the myth of Scots as "subsidy junkies" yesterday with the publication of an official report claiming that Scotland receives much more taxpayers' money than England and Wales.

The report shows that Scotland received £3.2 billion of subsidies from the rest of the United Kingdom as well as more money per head of population for health, education and social security in 1996-97.

The statistics, published in the latest edition of the *Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland* report, show that Scotland had a deficit of £7.1 billion in 1996-97. However, when the declining revenues from North Sea oil were taken into account, along with the proceeds from privatisation, the deficit dropped to £3.2 billion. The shortfall was made up with subsidies from the Exchequer.

The report also reveals that Scots received from the Government £4,826 for every person — £777 more than the average amount received in England and Wales.

Unveiling the figures, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said they showed the true state of Scotland's finances.

The Scottish National Party dismissed the report as a "thoroughly discredited exercise" and claimed it was designed to perpetuate the belief among some English Tory MPs that Scots were "subsidy junkies".

## Midland Bank

### Interest Rates

Advice of interest rate changes for personal customers from 3 December 1998

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### Rates for Savers

High Interest Savings 60 days notice (Annual interest option)	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
£100,000 +	6.85%	6.35%	6.35%	
£50,000 +	6.55%	6.05%	6.05%	
£10,000	6.45%	5.95%	5.95%	
Up to £10,000	6.25%	5.75%	5.75%	

Midland Instant Access Savings (Annual interest option)	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
£50,000 +	6.00%	5.50%	5.50%	
£25,000 +	5.35%	4.65%	4.65%	
£10,000 +	4.85%	4.20%	4.20%	
£5,000 +	4.60%	4.00%	4.00%	
Up to £5,000	4.25%	4.00%	4.00%	

Deposit Account 7 days notice (No longer sold)	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
£50,000 +	5.92%	5.44%	5.50%	
£25,000 +	5.29%	4.61%	4.65%	
£10,000 +	4.80%	4.16%	4.20%	
£5,000 +	4.56%	3.97%	4.00%	
Up to £5,000	4.21%	3.97%	4.00%	

Tessa and follow-up Tessa (Annual Tax Free Interest)	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	7.80%		7.30%	

### Mortgages\*

	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	APR	APR	Int. Rate p.a.	
Home Loan Rate	9.0%	8.5%	8.20%	
Home Improvement Loan Rate (loans sanctioned before 26 April 89)	11.0%	10.5%	10.20%	
Home Mortgage Rate	8.9%	8.4%	8.20%	

### Other Secured Borrowing

Homeowner Reserve	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	APR	APR	Int. Rate p.a.	
	12.6%	11.80%	11.40%	

### Bank Accounts

Student Bank Account	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	1.99%	1.49%	1.50%	

Livcach	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	4.17%	3.93%	4.00%	

16 - 19 Year Old Account	Old Rate		New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	2.23%	1.74%	1.75%	

**Base Rate 6.75% effective from 5 November 1998**

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax, applicable to savings.  
 Gross CAR (Compounded Annual Rate): The true gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments.  
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\*Mortgage rates for new borrowers were effective from 17 November 1998.  
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**ary peers**

As most of us know, the House of Lords has an absolute veto, and it is not just a revising chamber. This tiresome episode has shown that any reform of the Lords must focus on the powers of the upper House as much as its composition. There will have to be firm rules on what the Lords can do and probably some kind of joint conference procedure. Getting rid of hereditary peers is merely a preliminary.

PETER RIDDELL

**SNP denies 'subsidy junkie' slur on Scots**

By Gillian Harris  
 SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was accused of perpetrating a "subsidy junkie" slur on Scotland with the publication of an official report claiming that Scotland receives more taxpayer money than England and Wales. The report shows that Scotland received £5.2 billion more than England and Wales in 1997-98. The report also shows that Scotland receives more taxpayer money than England and Wales in every year since 1992-93. The report also shows that Scotland receives more taxpayer money than England and Wales in every year since 1992-93. The report also shows that Scotland receives more taxpayer money than England and Wales in every year since 1992-93.

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# Tourism takes toll on the Taj

India's most famous landmark faces closure because of damage by visitors and pollution, writes Christopher Thomas in Delhi

THE Taj Mahal, battered by people, sandstorms and pollution, may be permanently closed. It is suffering the ravages of 10 million pairs of feet trudging across its marble floors every year, adding to its accelerating decay.

The decline is visible: the marble steps leading to the main part of the mausoleum are cracked and worn from over-use and some of the white marble slabs in the dome and minarets have been replaced because they have disintegrated from "marble cancer" — the result of decades of chronic pollution from vehicles, brickworks and iron foundries in and around Agra, one of the filthiest cities in India.

The new slabs are patently just that: the stone surrounding them is yellow with time, much of it marked with brown spots — evidence of pollution damage. The area immediately around the Taj has improved substantially since a supreme court ruling two years ago ordering the closure of 260 iron foundries unless they switched from solid fuel to gas, but by then much of the damage had been done.

Hundreds of other factories were ordered out of a 6,500 square mile area around the monument, and battery-driven buses were introduced to carry tourists from car parks nearly a mile away. The buses are no longer in use because the authorities have failed to replace worn-out batteries.

Guards at the Taj do little to protect the monument: children can be seen urinating against it and the constant touching of delicate work in marble and semi-precious stones has caused many pockets of damage.

Tree felling in the Rajasthan desert has created sandstorms that have caused serious erosion of the marble. The vaults at the base of the building, where Emperor Shah Jehan and his favourite wife are buried, have been badly damaged by visitors they have been permanently closed to the public.

The tasteless lighting installed to illuminate the Taj has been widely criticised. Every Friday, when entry is free,

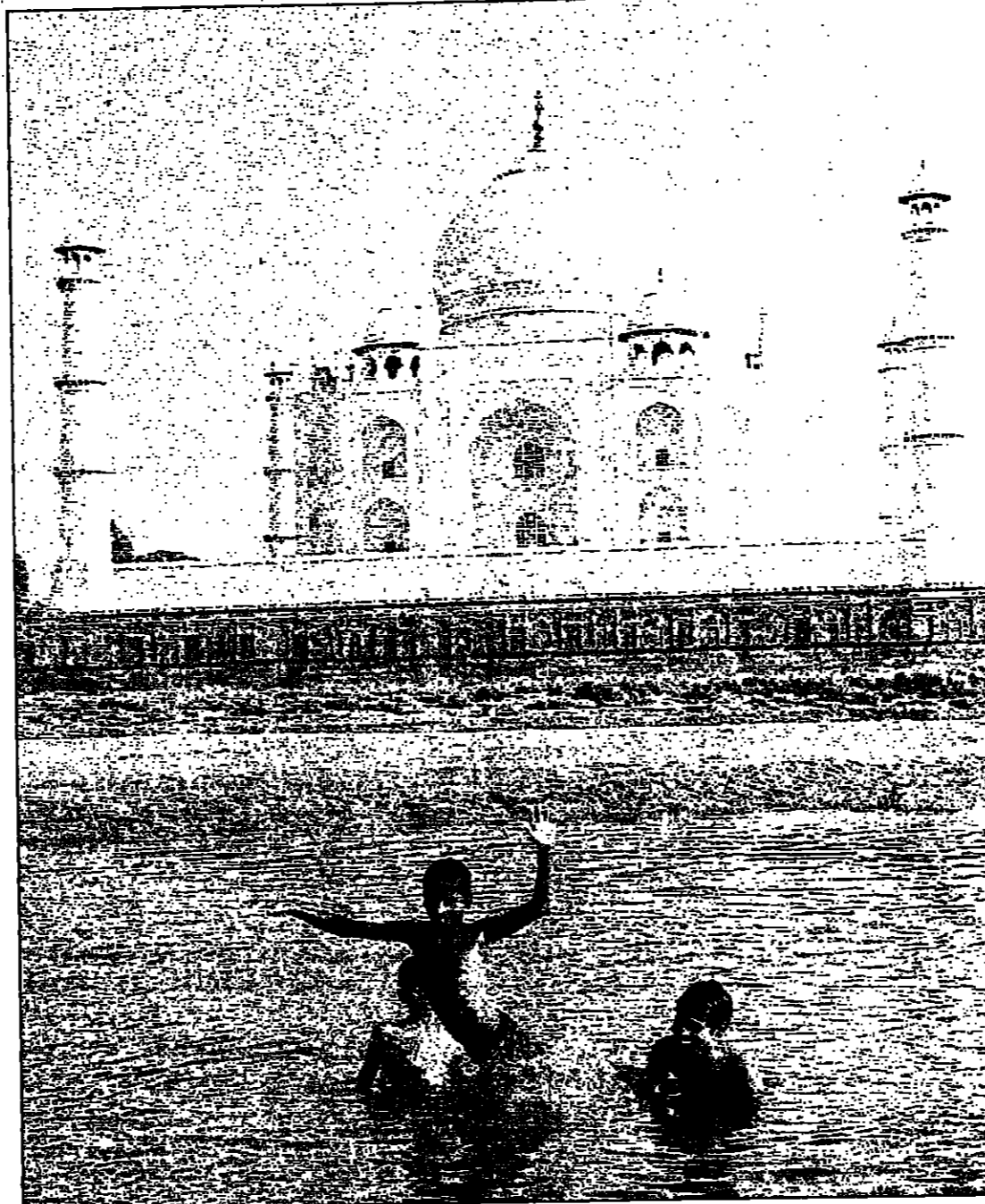
around 100,000 people pour into the Taj. Every year more than 10 million people visit the 17th century mausoleum, built by 20,000 labourers and craftsmen — some of whom had their thumbs severed afterwards so they could never repeat the masterpiece.

D.V. Sharma, superintendent of the Agra branch of the Archaeological Survey of India, a much criticised and financially strapped government body meant to preserve ancient monuments, issued dire warnings that the Taj was crumbling from the deluge of tourists and that drastic steps were necessary.

He raised the possibility of permanent closure, but added that at the very least the number of visitors should be curbed. Privately, officials directly involved in preserving the Taj say that ultimately there will be no choice but to close the monument in order to slow its decline. There has been buck-passing between the Survey and the Government's Department of Tourism over who is responsible for controlling the number of visitors. The Survey has publicly declared the urgent need for a cut-back and criticised the tourism department for failing to address the crisis properly.

Agra and the surrounding region are rich with historical monuments that are rarely visited — probably because Agra is such a foul city and most people flee once they have seen the Taj. The state government of Uttar Pradesh and the federal Government in Delhi are jointly spending \$5 million to try to clean up the environment — which, if anything, will bring more visitors. Controlling entry to the building, the most popular tourist destination in India, could prove to be politically difficult because of the money it generates. Allowing the Taj to fall apart also has political dangers, given the perception among many Muslim leaders that the Hindu nationalist-led Government in Delhi has scant interest in protecting India's Islamic heritage.

Leading article, page 19



Children at play in the Yamuna river near the Taj Mahal, where heavy tourism is causing damage

## List of endangered natural and man-made wonders grows

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE closure of the Taj Mahal would add one more name to a growing list of world heritage sites where access is now restricted or impossible. As world tourism increases, the number of ancient monuments that have to be protected from the pounding of human feet and the humidity of human breath is growing.

The prehistoric paintings of the Lascaux caves in the Dordogne,

France, have only been visible in reproduction since the 1970s, when the caves were closed to visitors because their breath was promoting the growth of damaging moulds.

In Egypt several tombs in the Valley of the Kings are permanently closed, while the three giant pyramids of Giza are being closed in turn this year and next to give them some respite. In Italy the basilica at Assisi is closed while restoration work continues on frescoes smashed in the

earthquake of 1997, while in Pisa people are no longer permitted to scale the leaning tower in case they bring about its downfall.

Florence issues permits to limit the city's visitors to 500 coaches and 50,000 people a day.

In Malta the Salfieni hypogeum, an enormous underground burial complex, is now closed for restoration after decades of lax management led to extensive damage by vandals and graffiti artists.

In Britain access to our own prime heritage site, Stonehenge, has been off-bounds for more than 20 years, and there has been talk of declaring the summit of Snowdon off limits as well.

Visitors to the Andean ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru and to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific are severely restricted. The Monteverde cloud forest reserve in Costa Rica only allows 100 visitors at a time, and that to one small corner of its area.

The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan admits only a few thousand foreigners a year and charges them £65 a day for the privilege.

Speakers at a Royal Geographical Society seminar earlier this year accepted that more no-go areas were certain to be declared soon.

High on the list are the Yellowstone and Everglades national parks in the United States, both already on Unesco's danger list of world heritage sites.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

#### Habibie vows to hold early poll

Jakarta: President Habibie of Indonesia moved swiftly yesterday to shore up his Government's battered reputation with promises of a full investigation into last week's killings which would not spare the security forces, and a commitment to earlier-than-expected presidential elections (David Watts writes).

Police continued to question members of a reformist group they say tried to overthrow the Government. So far 11 of 18 signatories to a petition denouncing the People's Representative Assembly and calling for a provisional government have been held but none charged. Dr Habibie said students had been used to instigate the violence that led to 14 deaths.

#### Tobacco pact agreed

Washington: Four US tobacco companies agreed to pay \$206 billion (£124 billion) over 25 years to recompense eight states for Medicaid funds spent on smoking-related illnesses (Ian Brodie writes). The four will scrap billboard advertising, stop using merchandise to promote brands and ban marketing aimed at children — but still sponsor sports events. However the pact does not offer protection from lawsuits. The Clinton Administration will fight for tougher legislation in Congress.

#### Schröder in Moscow

Moscow: Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, made it clear on his first trip to Moscow as head of Government that he would not seek to revive the relationship enjoyed by his predecessor, Helmut Kohl, and President Yeltsin (Robin Lodge writes). Herr Schröder, who held talks with Yevgeni Primakov, Russia's Prime Minister, said he was looking forward to a scheduled meeting with Mr Yeltsin, but emphasised that he was seeking broader relations with other Russian politicians.

#### Italy firm on Kurd

Rome: Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, said Italy could not accept extraditions to countries where the death penalty was in force and would resist threats or pressure over the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish guerrilla leader. Speaking at a weekly news conference, Signor D'Alema said that the Court of Appeals would make a final decision on Mr Ocalan, who had asked for political asylum, but the Prime Minister gave no indication of when. (Reuters)

#### Mandela under fire

Johannesburg: A unit set up by President Mandela to tackle government corruption has become involved in a clash with Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, who will succeed him next year, over its decision to issue a summons against Dr Nkosazama Zuma, the Health Minister (Ray Kennedy writes). She has been ordered to account for the £1.4 million funding of a musical to increase Aids awareness among youth. Mr Mbeki said she would be vigorously defended.

#### Suicide injures guard

Los Angeles: A woman attempting to kill herself jumped off a six-storey building and landed on a security guard who tried to catch her. The woman died and the guard suffered a broken neck. The woman, who was not identified, warned people on the ground that she was going to jump and everyone moved except the guard, Conrad Buchanan. The woman suffered a broken back and died in hospital. The guard, 26, was in a serious but stable condition. (AP)

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Disgraced priest in deathbed mystery

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### Libie vows to early poll

Libya's Government vowed to hold early elections in the wake of the recent killings and a commitment to hold presidential elections. David Wange, a member of the Government, said the Government was planning to hold a referendum on the constitution in the next few months. He also said the Government was planning to hold a referendum on the constitution in the next few months.

### US pact agreed

Four US aircraft companies agreed to pay the US Government \$25 million to reimburse a debt for the 1997-98 season. The companies are Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon. The companies are also planning to invest in the US aircraft industry.

### Under in Moscow

Yeltsin's Prime Minister, Viktor Khromykh, said he would visit Moscow to meet with the President. He also said he would visit Moscow to meet with the President.

### Firm on Kurd

The US Government is firm on its policy towards the Kurds. It is providing them with humanitarian aid and is also providing them with military aid.

### Modela under fire

The modela is under fire from the media. It is being criticized for its role in the economy and its impact on the environment.

### Side injures guard

The side of the guard was injured during the attack. The guard was hit in the side and was taken to the hospital.

# Relatives sue over sailors killed in hurricane

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE families of West Indian crew members who drowned when the tall ship *Fantome* sank during Hurricane Mitch last month are suing the vessel's owners for sending their loved ones out on what they claim was a suicide mission.

Thirty West Indian men are presumed to have drowned with their skipper, Guyan March, 32, from St Austell, Cornwall, when the 282ft *Fantome* was overcome by huge seas and ferocious winds off the coast of Honduras on the night of October 27. No bodies have been found and sea searches have turned up only two empty life rafts and part of a wooden staircase.

Lawyers for the families say that the disaster would never have happened had the ship not set sail into some of the worst conditions in a century in the Caribbean. Bill Huggett, a Miami-based lawyer who specialises in representing seamen and who has filed papers on behalf of 15 families, claims the ship's owners val-

ued the 1927-vintage *Fantome* above the lives of its crew.

Mr Huggett said that, while it was common practice for cruise ships to put to sea to get out of the way of a hurricane, these were exceptional circumstances. "This was a killer — it was the worst hurricane in 100 years with winds of 180mph, which were enough to blow concrete buildings down, let alone an antique sailing vessel," Mr Huggett added.

He also alleges that Mr March was effectively ordered to go back to sea by Michael Burke, the president of Windjammer Barefoot Cruises of Miami, the ship's owners, who was communicating with the skipper from his offices by satellite telephone. However, Mr Burke has been quoted in reports in the American press as saying that it was Mr March's decision to set sail again, something the company claims was both correct at the time and standard practice in the marine industry.

The disaster came after the three-masted *Fantome* docked in Belize to put off 57 cruise passengers and also ten new crew members, including all the women, as Mr March and Mr Burke both became increasingly concerned about the approaching storm.

It was then decided to put to sea to try to ride out the worst of the hurricane in the lee of Roatan island, 25 miles off the Honduran coast. But a change in Mitch's predicted course produced horrendous conditions and the ship was overcome in 50R waves in a storm that raged for 30 hours.

The family of Mr March are not involved with the legal action and do not plan to sue the company.



President Chirac of France visits survivors of Hurricane Mitch at a nursery in the northern Guatemalan community of Punta Manabique. The makeshift facility is being run by French firefighters

# Japanese troops fly in with aid for Honduras

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN TEGUCIGALPA

TWO-HUNDRED Japanese troops and military planes landed at Tegucigalpa airport yesterday as part of the Hurricane Mitch relief effort — the first time Japanese soldiers have been deployed abroad in a foreign capacity since the Second World War.

They staged a brief visit by Hillary Clinton, the wife of President Clinton, touring Central America to inspect the storm damage. The arrival yesterday of President Chirac of France also aroused great interest after his country last week announced it was writing off a \$100 million (£62.5 million) debt by Honduras and Nicaragua.

The Honduran Government is anxiously seeking international support for the further writing off of its \$4 billion debt with several countries and international banks.

But it was the arrival of the Japanese that captured the spotlight. For decades Hondurans have been used to seeing headlines announcing the arrival of American troops in

their country. Yesterday it was a different story. "Japanese troops arrive!" exclaimed one front page.

In recent years Japan has emerged as one of the top foreign aid donors in the region, surpassing the United States and the European Union. Honduras is especially grateful. After US aid dropped from record levels in the 1980s of \$190 million a year to \$30 million in the 1990s, Japan picked up the slack, averaging about \$90 million a year. That dropped last year to about \$80 million as a result of the Asian financial crisis, but the troop arrival has again demonstrated Tokyo's commitment to the region. The Japanese will be working in medical teams and plan to set up a mobile hospital.

British and European aid continues to arrive. The Red Cross has set up a virtual air-bridge between Honduras and its donors. At least eight aid flights have arrived at Soto Cano Air Force base in Honduras.

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March: missing skipper of the ill-fated *Fantome*

## Disgraced priest in deathbed mystery

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

A MYSTERY surrounds the death of a parish priest who embezzled \$1.35 million (\$313,000) from his Pittsburgh church collections and lost much of it in Atlantic City's casinos.

Father Walter Benz was a victim of advanced leukaemia and a disgrace to his Catholic diocese when he died two months ago after an oxygen tube and intravenous drip were pulled from his body.

Detectives are now wrestling with a nurse's story about two strangers seen at his deathbed — and never seen again. Were they angels of mercy or vengeful parishioners, or characters concocted by the nurse in desperation?

The parish of St Mary Assumption is reeling from the revelation that for 26 years its priest siphoned \$1,000 a week from collection plates to pay for properties in Pennsylvania and Florida, rare coins, old guns and a Cadillac as well as his gambling.

He also lived for three years with a woman parishioner who joined his scam after catching him red-handed. Fr Benz died at 72 after confessing embezzlement to a church official and sinking into a coma on the day of his arrest.

Barely a week later, an alarm sounded in his nursing home to indicate his intravenous tube had been disconnected. The first nurse on the scene said that he found a middle-aged couple standing over his bed, one of them holding his hand. In the frenzy that followed the couple vanished.

Before he died Fr Benz told police that Mary Albaugh, 51, became his partner in crime. She now stands accused of theft, forgery and conspiracy.

She reportedly urged doctors to withdraw life support, but deferred to her lawyer. With eerie prescience he advised her to "wait and see next week", he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "I said, 'God works in mysterious ways.'"

## Presidency bid cut short by Turner

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

A BID for the White House by Ted Turner, the flamboyant media mogul, appeared over yesterday before it had really begun.

The billionaire had already said that his wife, the actress Jane Fonda, was opposed to his running, but had not elaborated on his plans other than to paint a doomsday scenario of America being swamped by starving people.

But yesterday he responded to a report in *The New Yorker* by issuing a statement through Time Warner Inc. "As of today Mr Turner has no plans to run for office," said a spokesman, who would not comment on quotes attributed to Mr Turner which suggested there were problems in his marriage.

He had apparently astonished a 300-strong dinner audience by saying: "We just came from the marriage counsellor in Santa Monica. Jane wants me to become a saint — but I'm not."

Mr Turner, founder of the Cable News Network (CNN) and vice-president of Time Warner, was collecting a World Citizenship Award from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. He attacked the Government, saying: "The United States is the one that doesn't want to get rid of nuclear weapons because somehow they think that we're going to be able to use nuclear weapons to save ourselves from the starving masses of the Third World when they come to our doorstep."

"But that's not the way they are going to come in. They're coming from across the Mexican border right now... they'll come from Saudi Arabia when they run out of oil... the real threat is no longer an army marching on us, it's people infiltrating us, you know, that are going to do? Shoot 'em?" Ms Fonda was reported to have said only: "Wherever Ted goes, I go."

# Jailing closes terror chapter in Germany

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

MONIKA HAAS was jailed for five years yesterday for her part in an aircraft hijacking — a sentencing that marked Germany's final reckoning with its terrorist past.

In 1977 she had smuggled weapons and explosives to a Palestinian hit squad, which then hijacked a Lufthansa jet in an unsuccessful attempt to free Red Army Faction terrorists. The attack formed part of the dramatic climax of Germany's "years of blood and lead". Terrorist stunts in the 1970s and assassinations that ended well into the 1980s put a massive strain on the German political system.

Above all, it moulded the political class of 1968 that has taken power: both Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, and Otto Schily, Interior Minister, were defence lawyers for members of the terrorist milieu. Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, and other leading Green Party personalities were in sympathy with many aims (though not methods) of the Baader-Meinhof group.

The Government would like public memories of those years to fade, but this seems unlikely as long as Carlos the Jackal — regarded as the guiding spirit behind the interna-



Haas took hijackers' weapons to Majorca

tional terrorist movement — is under investigation in France.

German authorities have requested the extradition of one German terrorist suspect held in France this autumn and more evidence is emerging of connections between East Germany's Stasi secret police, the Carlos group and the Red Army Faction. Dan Voineau, chief Romanian military prosecutor, admitted at the weekend that the Securitate secret police had paid Carlos to organise attacks within Germa-

ny. He received \$1 million (£600,000), for example, for a bomb attack on Radio Free Europe's Munich headquarters in 1981.

The Securitate also supplied explosives to Carlos's German adjutant, Johannes Weirich, to be smuggled into Berlin for a bomb attack on the Maison de France cultural institute.

Haas seemed unsurprised by her sentence. The prosecutor had demanded ten years, the defence an acquittal. She was found guilty of assisting an attack on air traffic, complicity in violent hostage-taking and attempted murder.

The Majorca to Frankfurt flight, with 82 passengers and five crew aboard, was diverted to Aden — where Jürgen Schumann, the pilot, was murdered — before reaching Mogadishu in Somalia. Helmut Schmidt, then Chancellor, ordered the storming of the jet. Hours after the hostages were freed, three Red Army Faction terrorists, including Andreas Baader, its leader, committed suicide in Stuttgart prison.

Six days later, the body of Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the German Employers Federation president, was found in Alsace. So many bloody events sent Germany into shock.

# Call-girl trial in Paris set to snare celebrities

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE trials of four people accused of involvement in a high class call-girl ring catering to international businessmen, Gulf princes and other wealthy individuals opened in Paris yesterday amid speculation that the names of prominent clients could be revealed in court.

Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, a 51-year-old photographer suspected of recruiting young women to the prostitution network, was charged with "aggravated pimping", but his alleged accomplice in the vice ring, former Swedish beauty queen Anika Brumarek, 50, was not present in court and will be tried separately because her lawyer was injured in a recent car accident and could not attend.

M Bourgeois and Mme Brumarek were arrested in October 1996 after the French vice squad stumbled across the alleged prostitution ring during a routine investigation that rapidly ballooned into an embarrassing international scandal.

The investigators allegedly found a list of 89 young women, including 14 minors, and the names of 26 "clients", including several from the Gulf states and members of the international jet set.

Prostitution is not illegal in France, but M Bourgeois faces up to ten years in prison if he is convicted of pimping.

Frederic N'Guyen, the tenacious judge investigating the case, added fuel to the scandal last February when he called in the American actor Robert De Niro for questioning as a potential witness. Mr de Niro was so enraged by his treatment at the hands of French investigators that he sued the magistrate and announced he was returning his Légion d'honneur medal.

M Bourgeois is suspected of luring young women into the call-girl network, allegedly by claiming he was taking publicity photographs for a cosmetics company and with the promise of minor film roles. A dozen of the women, many of whom were penni-



Anika Brumarek, a former model from Sweden, arrives at the Paris court to hear the opening session of the call-girl trial. She is due to be tried later for pimping

less aspiring models or actresses from Northern and Eastern Europe, have since joined in the case as civil plaintiffs.

According to prosecutors, M Bourgeois had the women pose for obscene photographs. The resulting "album" was allegedly shown to wealthy clients, and meetings were then arranged in Paris or on the Côte d'Azur.

According to Judge N'Guyen some of the women were recruited by being persuaded that prostitution was the quickest route to a glamorous job in films or modelling, but others were allegedly blackmailed with the threat that the photographs taken by M Bourgeois would be sent to their families if they did not co-operate.

Senior French politicians, as well as sporting and film celebrities, are reported to be on the client list for the call-girl ring, which may well have operated with the covert blessing of the French secret services.

Also on trial is Nazih Al Ladki, a Lebanese businessman who worked as a secretary to the nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and is suspected of acting as a go-between in negotiations. Two Swedish citizens, Thomas Axel and Janina Toresdotter Necander, also appeared in court yesterday accused of acting as intermediaries.

The ring allegedly charged clients up to Fr50,000 (£5,000) a night in a highly lucrative and exploitative trade in human flesh. The alleged in-

volvement of Gulf princes has made the case politically sensitive since the Gulf oil states are major purchasers of French military hardware.

At one point in the investigation, according to Le Monde newspaper, the Justice Ministry demanded to know precisely which "foreign personalities" might be involved.

"Only the small fry are being judged. This investigation was stifled from the start," Vincent Delmas, a lawyer representing one of the victims, alleged. The trial is expected to last until November 25.

The court ruled that Mme Brumarek, and another of the accused who is suffering from heart problems, would be tried next May.

# Moscow winter claims its first victims

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

AS RUSSIANS brace themselves for what is expected to be the coldest winter in 30 years, 13 people have already died of hypothermia in Moscow. In some northern areas temperatures have plummeted lower than -40C (-40F).

The mortality rate in Russia is between 50 and 100 per cent higher than that in the industrialised West, and life expectancy, at 57.7 years for men and 71.2 for women, is the lowest for 40 years.

Alcohol-related deaths are blamed for 10 per cent of the drop, closely followed by infectious disease and liver disease as the country's healthcare system deteriorates and poverty spreads. A tuberculosis epidemic is claiming more than 100,000 new patients a year and the cold winter can only aggravate a dire situation.

Nikolai Antonov, 49, has lived on Moscow's streets for six months. This will be his first winter without a roof over his head and, he fears, his last. "I didn't have anywhere to go after I got out of prison," he said. "I'm going to go and sleep at a station tonight but they kick you out every five minutes. I just don't want to fall asleep drunk out here."

If he does, he could end up as what the police call a "snow-drop", a body that becomes visible only when the snow melts in the spring.

Vladimir Starodubov, the Minister for Health, told the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, that an acute shortage of medicine was the most urgent problem in the country's healthcare. Since the beginning of Russia's economic crisis in August imports of vital medicines have plunged and prices of those medicines still available have risen by 110 per cent.

Caroline Hurford, a spokeswoman for the International Red Cross Federation in Moscow, said: "Around the northern rim of Russia they are having to cope with an absence of heating, and all kinds of vital institutions are closing. They spend all their energies huddling round a stove."

# Brussels 'mishandled' £3bn

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

DESPITE years of promised reforms, the European Commission and EU states last year mishandled £3 billion of taxpayers' money on schemes that were poorly monitored, mismanaged or fraudulent, the Union's financial watchdog is to report today.

For the fourth successive year, the Court of Auditors is withholding its approval of the EU's £65 billion annual spending because more than 5 per cent of the funds cannot be ac-

counted for adequately. The court acknowledged some improvements in the Commission's management, but its latest onslaught will reinforce the embarrassment inflicted on the Brussels executive by scandals highlighting shady management practices and swindles that have cost millions in wrongly spent aid to the former Communist bloc and developing world in the past three years.

The auditors conclude that the accounts "once again showed an unacceptably high incidence of substantive errors

in the transactions underlying the Commission's payments".

Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, is expected to throw much of the blame for mismanagement on the member states when he responds to the report today. The Commission yesterday denied that the £3 billion had "gone missing".

Britain is one of the worst offenders in customs fraud with £63 million identified in 455 cases. Among the targets of the auditors' scorn are payments to fishermen to maintain vessels that had already been scrapped or sunk.

# Muslims jailed for Bosnia war crimes

THE War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague yesterday convicted two Bosnian Muslims and a Bosnian Croat for running a sadistic regime of torture and terror at a prison camp in central Bosnia, but unexpectedly acquitted the Muslim military commander of the region on the grounds that he had no control over the behaviour of camp guards (Ben Macintyre writes).

Hazim Delic and Esad Landzo, the Bosnian Muslims, were sentenced to 20 years and 15 years in prison respectively for their horrific treatment of inmates at Celebici camp in 1992. Zdravko Mucic, the Bosnian Croat camp commander, was jailed for seven years.

The court decided to acquit Zajnir Delalic, 50, the Muslim regional commander accused of permitting the mistreatment of Serb prisoners. Prosecutors had asked for a ten-year sentence against Mr Delalic, and Grant Niemann, the chief prosecutor, appealed against the ruling.

The case was the tribunal's first concerning atrocities against Serbs and the first to command responsibility for Bosnian war crimes. Detainees at the camp, near Konjic, were murdered, tortured and raped, said prosecutors who singled out Delic, the deputy camp commander, as a vicious offender.

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# The cancer carers skilled at pain control

THE Macmillan Cancer Relief charity fundraisers have gone into overdrive before Christmas. Today 300 supporters and workers for the charity from the South East are gathering at the Royal College of Physicians.

Next Monday, the House of Lords and Commons Parliamentary Palace of Varieties, at St John's Smith Square, compered by Tony Banks, will star Margaret Beckett as a singer, accompanied by John Battle on the mandolin. Lord Janner of Braunstone will show his conjuring skills, and the cast will also include the Tory party chairman, Michael Ancram; Tom King; Lord Baker of Dorking reciting poetic parodies; John MacGregor, who will read minds; John Reid singing Scottish folk songs and Toby Jessel, the former MP for Twicken-

"I want even the poorest people to be provided with the latest and best advice, both for avoiding cancer and for recognising and dealing with it when it exists." He also wanted to see "homes" for cancer patients, where they would receive attention free at low cost, and volunteer nurses who could tend to patients in their own homes.

Macmillan, a countryman from Somerset and a graduate of London University, became a civil servant at the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. His surprisingly radical and unbureaucratic views on cancer care were at least 50 years ahead of his time, and were inspired by watching helplessly, as his father suffered from cancer of the oesophagus.

If Douglas Macmillan had been able to call upon Macmillan nurses, his father would have understood the troubles he was facing and his family would have been better able to comprehend any emotional turmoil. Macmillan Sr would have received adequate pain control, which remains a particular skill of Macmillan nurses. However, Douglas Macmillan — a seventh child — would not have had the magic even now to preserve the life of patients with carcinoma of the oesophagus, although the prognosis is improving.

In nearly all cases of adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus, mainly a disease of the over-60s, the tumour starts with pre-malignant changes — Barrett's metaplasia. Early detection may offer greater hope of recovery. The patient first notices difficulty in swallowing; this becomes progressive and persistent. Any difficulty in swallowing should be investigated immediately. The patient can usually point to the exact spot where the food sticks. Weight loss is common and, not surprisingly, there is early loss of appetite.



ham, at the piano. Other MPs will display unexpected talents — Sir Patrick Cormack, for instance, will recite a monologue and Alan Beith will blow his own trumpet.

On Friday next week, the soprano Susan Daniel will sing at Goodwood, where, at the invitation of Lady March, supporters will be dining in three state rooms and will see the house after four years of restoration. The occasion is sold out.

Douglas Macmillan died in 1969 at the age of 84. The charity he founded has a star-studded list of officers, including the Prince of Wales as patron and the Duchess of Kent as president. The annual expenditure on grants to patients has grown from just £11 in 1924 to £4.75 million. The charity employs 1,600 carefully selected and experienced nurses, many with postgraduate qualifications in palliative care and cancer nursing. Many also have educational experience, thereby fulfilling the hopes of Macmillan, who said in 1911:

● **Macmillan Cancer Relief information line for sufferers and their families: 0845 601 6161. Tickets for the Parliamentary Palace of Varieties, November 23 (chairman, Mrs Eira Jessel) from Charlotte Holmes: 0171-795 0055.**



Every picture tells a story: Doris London, a resident at the Emily Jackson Home in Sevenoaks, Kent, gives Sophie Smith, aged four, the benefit of her experience at a painting session

# Giving new life to the old

Peter gazes at the worn floor across the room as she bends over the water painting in front of her. Then slowly, almost shyly, she walks towards her and kisses her: both bask in the glow of mutual affection. Peter is three years old and Doris — the object of his affections — is nearly 93.

On the far side of Europe, meanwhile, a vision from Hell. A wretched scrap of humanity lies on a grimy mattress, the face contorted. It is impossible to tell whether the creature is male or female as the eyes roll around a fly-blown room that is shared with eight other, similarly blighted human beings. The two scenes, one in Britain, the

other in the Romanian mountains, seem irreconcilable. But they are linked by Ros Ward, a middle-aged Englishwoman who is matron of an old people's home.

In Kent, Peter and Doris benefit from a scheme started by Ms Ward to open a children's nursery in the old people's home. It brings those taking their first steps in life together with those whose first memories are of horse-drawn carriages. Now Ms Ward plans to open a similar venture at a village in Romania's Carpathian Mountains.

Emily Jackson House in Sevenoaks was a conventional old people's home until a year ago when Ms Ward overcame a "mountain of objections" and opened the day nursery. Now the ages of innocence and experience spend time together, reaping the same rewards that used to come from extended families. The scheme has been such a success that Westminster Health Care, which runs Emily Jackson House, plans to open more children's nurseries in some of the other 91 homes it operates. It is also backing Ms Ward in her scheme to help some of the abandoned and disabled children, and the elderly, suffering in Romania.

At Emily Jackson House, a group of people in their eighties and nineties gathers with a dozen or so three and four-year-olds to mix paint and use cut potatoes as stencils. "These

"We have separate entrances — we don't want children rushing past people on Zimmer frames," says Ms Ward. "The children are pretty regimented as they go about the building. The residents can say in their rooms or decide what they want."

"It took a year to overcome all the regulations and objections from the local authority and social services, including getting planning permission."

"My biggest fear was that the children and the elderly would catch things from one another. They are both frail in different ways," she adds. "But then there are aspects of both groups that are similar, for instance incontinence, pads and nappies are disposed of in the same way and the elderly need small, attractive meals, as do the children."

Rose Bresnahan, 71, came to the home two years ago and was depressed after a stroke. "There is a terrible fear that comes with handing over your life," says the former teacher. "I had always had my independence and was frightened when I arrived. Then the children came and that made it easier. I have nine grandchildren, so I like having children around."

Phyllis Claydon used to act with Errol Flynn. Now in her nineties, she has found a new role in life: teaching a three-year-old to crochet.

In the home for disabled in Timis, Romania, such life has yet to enter the lives of the residents. The man in charge is Dr George Grusea. He, another doctor and five nurses have four bathrooms for 101 inmates. Since most are stranded, limbless, on pallets, many sit and sleep in their own urine and faeces. "Physically, we should only be able to house 80 people," says Dr Grusea. "We cannot put up all those who need a place." Asked if he

has enough medicines to help his charges, he pauses, then says: "We hardly ever get anyone cured, and people rarely go home once they are here."

Now Ms Ward and her colleague, Liza Donoghue, are converting a building for a combined old people's nursing

home and shelter for sick and abandoned youngsters in Sînpetru, a few miles from Brasov. They plan to take 20 children and 16 elderly, and need to raise £150,000 through a charity, Care and Comfort Romania. But, says Ms Ward, they need £500,000 to run the centre for a year.

● For information or to make donations call Care and Comfort Romania on 01732 464728.

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people are so happy," says Ms Ward. "They know they are wanted and loved, and the children don't care if someone is in a wheelchair."

Several of the elderly residents have had their lives transformed by the children, says Ms Ward, and she is sure the death rate has been reduced since the day nursery opened last October. "We have had only 12 deaths in the past year, which is extremely low," she says. "The elderly have a right to live full lives."

Ms Ward, whose mother is one of the residents, points out several others who, she believes, had made up their minds to leave after moving in. "One lady who had had a stroke came for a trial weekend and she was so depressed. Now she climbs the stairs, which is a real struggle, to spend time in the nursery."

There are 60 residents aged from 55 to 99, and 60 children aged between two and five at Emily Jackson House. The elderly are NHS and private residents, the latter paying around £500 a week. Parents of the infants pay £26 a day. Staff at the home can enrol their children at half price.

In the garden, children's slides find a place next to paths designed for wheelchairs. Old and young are encouraged to mix — if they want. But the two groups eat separately and any resident who finds small children less than appealing can keep them at bay — though most relish contact with the infants.



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# Soros: the man behind the money

## Billionaire financier George Soros says he is not a material man. Jon Ashworth reports

George Soros is one of the great enigmas of our time. He is the consummate buccannier, raking in billions of dollars through predatory assaults on the financial markets, yet he behaves like a pinstriped Robin Hood, ploughing his wealth into socially inspired causes. He claims to be able to divine patterns in the markets, but often gets it embarrassingly wrong. Consumed, or so he says, by self-doubt, he nevertheless feels confident enough to preach to world leaders about how to run their affairs.

and fans alike to pin him down on the issues of the day. His new book, *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*, a timely critique of the Asian crisis and its implications, will be serialised in *The Times* later this month.



**GEORGE SOROS** LSE

**THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM** an LSE debate sponsored by THE TIMES, DILLONS and LITTLE, BROWN

George Soros, the legendary financier and philanthropist, will debate the causes of and offer bold solutions to the current global meltdown at this LSE debate on Monday, 7 December which marks the publication of his new book "The Crisis of Global Capitalism: Open Society Endangered".

Chaired by Professor Anthony Giddens, director of LSE, Soros will be challenged by Mervyn King, Deputy Governor, Bank of England and Anatole Kaletsky, Associate Editor of *The Times*. There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience.

The debate will be held at 7pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Tickets are £10 and £7.50 for concessions (students, over 60s and the unemployed on production of valid ID) and include £2.00 off the price of the book (Little, Brown, £17.99).

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George Soros established his first foundation, the Open Society Fund, in 1979 and today oversees non-profit foundations and organisations in 31 countries

# This much prostate cancer

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joining Singer & Friedlander, the City merchant bank. He had earlier worked as a British Rail porter. Lacking the requisite old school tie, Soros found his ambitions frustrated.

He decamped again in 1956, to New York, and worked on Wall Street for 13 years before branching out on his own. In 1969 he set up Quantum Fund, registered in Curacao but run from Manhattan, and began investing on behalf of wealthy private individuals, scouring the world for mis-priced assets.

Soros's line in global arbitrage was a spectacular success. A \$1,000 investment in Quantum in 1969 would be worth more than \$3 million today, despite well-publicised setbacks. Quantum and its sister funds are worth, perhaps, \$18 billion.

By the late 1970s, Soros was rich enough to start thinking about channelling his wealth into philanthropic ventures. He established his first foundation, the Open Society Fund, in 1979, and today oversees non-profit foundations and organisations in 31 countries. His agenda spans education, publishing and human rights, as well as social, legal and economic reform.

In Russia Soros distributed \$20 million among 40,000 top scientists and spent millions more on electronic communications and scientific literature. A Russian foundation, set up in 1987, invested heavily in educational reform, printing textbooks free of Marxist



Soros's second wife, Susan

ideology. In the United States Soros is channelling money into such social ills as drug addiction, which he thinks should be treated as a public health problem, not a crime. He has called for marijuana to be legalised for medical purposes and has set up a \$50 million fund to help immigrants deprived of welfare benefits. Soros's homespun brand of philanthropy is not always welcomed by domestic authorities, however, many of whom consider him a meddling. On another level he complains that he is not taken seriously, that his theories are seen as merely the self-indulgent musings of a man who has

made a lot of money on the stock market.

Soros got it right with the pound in 1992, but his approach is hit and miss. Quantum reputedly lost \$600 million in two days when an \$8 billion punt on the yen went awry. Soros lost about \$650 million in the October 1987 stock market crash — making him the biggest single loser — when he shifted out of Tokyo and into Wall Street, just as the latter caved in. He knew something was coming, but couldn't quite tell where.

Soros enjoys reading and plays tennis and chess. Married to his second wife, Susan, he has five children, and homes in Manhattan and London.

A very private and intellectual man, he endured unwelcome publicity in Britain in 1991, when a former butler took him to an industrial tribunal, claiming unfair dismissal. It was alleged that the household cook was given to chucking 500 bottles of Chateau-Lafite into the evening gush, a smear strenuously denied by Soros's entourage.

They say the financier rarely drinks wine and does not indulge in fine cooking, except for the benefit of his guests. Soros himself has said: "I don't have great material needs. I like my comfort but, really, I am a very abstract person."

Patrick Davison, the aggrieved butler, portrayed Soros as a rather absent-minded soul who used to set off on journeys, then ring his office to find out where he was meant to be going. He once had to be stopped from wandering off to a meeting in his slippers. Parcels used to turn up from hotels all over Europe containing items Soros had left behind.

In September 1997, with the Asian crisis erupting, Soros became embroiled in a public slanging match with Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's Prime Minister. Beset by economic problems, and with Malaysia literally under a pall from the region's forest fires, Dr Mahathir launched an at-

tack on "immoral" financial speculators, and described Soros as a "moron". Soros hit back, describing Dr Mahathir as "a menace to his country".

Meltdown in Asia, and its toll on world markets, has given Soros deep cause for concern — hence his critique of the current financial turmoil. He talks of a "wrecking ball" effect and believes that the world's entire economic system is under threat. His solution is to call for restraints on the free movement of capital — ironically, for one who made his fortune exploiting this very system. Who knows, it may happen, but for now, there is money to be made, and Soros is not one to miss out on the fun.

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# Let's give the butcher the chop

## Michael Gove argues the case for the assassination of Saddam

Richard Branson was warning us at the weekend that mobile phones can damage your health. He doesn't know the half of it. During the Russian invasion of Chechnya the Chechen warlord Dzhokhar Dudayev learnt just how dangerous a mobile can be. The Russians, after identifying the unique signal from his personal handset, prepared a surprise for him. When a colleague rang one afternoon the call was picked up by a Russian Army helicopter, which unleashed an air-to-surface missile targeted on the phone. And that was the end of the Wolf of the Caucasus.

Although Dudayev's assassination may seem to be something out of James Bond, a curious example of death imitating art, it is of much more than anecdotal interest. It bears directly on the resolution of the crisis in the Middle East. Iraq's agony will end only with Saddam Hussein's death. And only the West can bring that about.

Saddam may have allowed the weapons inspectors of UNSCOM back into Iraq, but he did so only half an hour before the B52s painted the Baghdad sky dark. Our Government has promised instant retaliation if Saddam reneges on his obligations again, but it will be difficult for the West to maintain the constant combat readiness required for months to come.

**Special forces exist for exactly these situations**

Western leaders recognise that the problem will not be removed until Saddam is. President Clinton and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, have made it known that they want him out of the way. Mr Cook's deputy, Derek Fatchett, employing the mandarin understatement of his office, declared yesterday that "it would be a much better Iraq without Saddam Hussein". But the West's professed means of removing Saddam sound just as tragically unlikely as Dudayev's end, without any of its brutal efficiency.

The Butcher of Baghdad is to be toppled, according to Mr Fatchett, by "working with the Iraqi opposition". But what assistance is new Labour offering the opposition in Iraq? A sharper way with their focus groups? The only meaningful assistance we can offer is the use of military force. Everything else is pious vapour.

It may seem bitter to reproach a minister who means well, but his words invite cynicism from anyone who has observed the West's "support" for the Iraqi opposition so far. After the last Gulf War the alliance forces flinched from finishing off Saddam, and hoped the Iraqi opposition would do the dirty work. Saddam knew that the West would not provide them with appropriate assistance.

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1996. Saddam eliminated his opponents in exile in Jordan and unleashed a murderous campaign against the Iraqi Kurds, who were supposed to be sheltering under the protection of our "safe havens". They have been as much protection as an umbrella against a firing squad. The infiltration of Iraqi opposition networks, and the assassination of their leaders, has proceeded, while Saddam has toyed with the UN. The only safe havens in Iraq have been Saddam's presidential palaces.

And that is where we should strike. The only satisfactory means of ensuring that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction are not used is to kill Saddam and his Takriti clansmen.

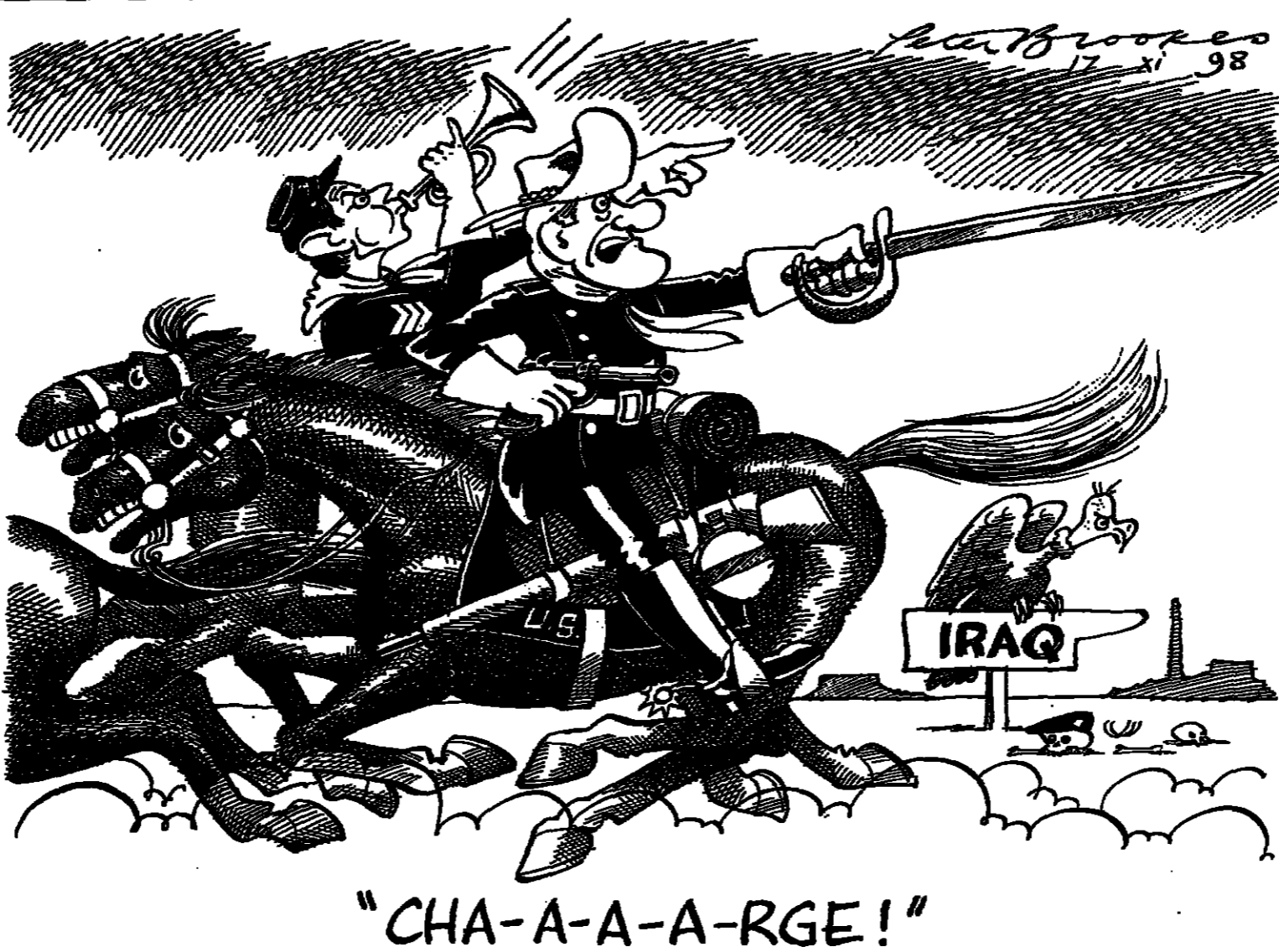
Assassination of the Iraqi leader had been proposed by several influential Americans, including the President's former aide George Stephanopoulos. There are certainly legal obstacles. The tactic is specifically outlawed under Executive Order 12333, passed by President Reagan in 1981. But I am grateful to Kevin O'Brien, a Canadian academic at Hull University, for pointing out that the order does not preclude assassination by allies.

Mr O'Brien has also argued that powerful voices in America believe that political killing may be justified under the order, provided that the original impetus behind it is respected, and the excesses of operations conducted during the Vietnam War are avoided.

There would be an appropriateness in terminating Saddam's career by assassination: he has built his career by the bullet, and has been known to settle Cabinet disputes with a revolver shot. But his very familiarity with assassination makes him a difficult target. He is surrounded at all times by bodyguards and he not only avoids sleeping in the same bed two nights running, but even breaks his rest in the middle of the night to evade his enemies.

The difficulties cannot be underestimated, but neither can the threat to peace while Saddam lives. Although the failure of the 1979 American attempt to rescue the hostages held in the US Embassy in Tehran stands as a warning, it is for situations such as this that special forces exist. The personnel deployed need not be those currently serving under the colours. Mercenary units are increasingly engaged by the West to perform actions which governments will not delegate to their own troops. Organisations such as Sandline, which recruit from those who have learnt their trade on the Hereford hills and the coasts of the Falklands, exist to execute outcomes at a deniable distance, for a price.

Rather than hoping until doomsday that the divided and resented Iraqis will finish off Saddam, why does the West not use its technology, and the men it has trained, to work with them to deliver the coup de grace? It would only take a phone call.



# Mario is innocent!

## If traditional family life is collapsing, it's no good blaming the computer

They are walking off the shelves as usual: PCs and IMACs, Playstations and laptops and games with names like Carpoolypse Now and Tomb Raiders, artfully designed to lure teenagers and alarm parents.

Few households will get through the festive season without microchips, whether housed in some interactive furry mutant for the baby or an over-designed net-surfer for Dad. As usual, we will buy these things; and as usual, we will nourish a guilty sense that we would be better people if we stuck to doing heartwarming stuff with dove oranges and charades.

In the more conscientious and literary family, Father will at some stage announce that he is going to read *A Christmas Carol* aloud, and that any family member whose possessions are suffered to emit any bleeping, cheeping or "akka-akka-akka" noises during the death of Tiny Tim will be in trouble.

In other families a wearisome UN-style round of negotiations will begin over whether or not it is appropriate to take a Game Boy out carol-singing. The peak season for getting neurotic about electronic leisure has begun. The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, kicked off nicely by saying that the Internet, computer games, and even personal stereos are eroding family life, because they are isolated pursuits which "starve our children of the oxygen of togetherness". He was addressing a Jewish parenting seminar, and his particular concern was the lapse of traditional family festivals; but his comments will cause a wider cringe. Of all the images which terrify the guilty modern parent, one of the most powerful is of the scattered family, glued to separate screens, enslaved and estranged by alien pixels. It cannot be long before the Blair-Straw parenting initiative zooms in on this one and the heavy hectoring begins.

Before it does, a few observations. The first is that throughout human history, the props and backdrops change faster than the human heart. Ageing generations must be careful: it is easy to be put off by the latest set of gizmos and fail to notice that the people handling them are actually very little different from you, bowing your hoop down the dusty lanes of yesterday. The second observation is that electronic games have no paranormal power. They succeed only

by stimulating the same brain cells that have challenged the ingenuity of toymakers and entertainers for a thousand years.

They are just things, and things are morally neutral. If you have a brick, you can smash someone's head with it or use it to build a cathedral. Technology does not change essential values (although it sometimes makes the questions complicated). Computers, video, the Internet and the rest need not erode family life unless families allow it. Or, indeed, welcome it: some families are glad to have them there to ease and sweeten an existing process of collapse.

Nonetheless, there is a visible problem, which is why we are so vulnerable to these periodic panics. More than 85 per cent of children over five play computer games regularly. Private bedroom televisions have become commonplace for children over 11 in all but the poorest homes. Children come younger and younger to the Internet; adults too show compulsive, if not quite addictive, behaviour. In an untidy and hostile world there is something profoundly soothing about an interactive screen. It is a domain you can predictably control, a relationship without responsibility, a colloquium in which nobody judges you. If you are on the run from real life, there are certainly some very beguiling alternatives on the market.

But that is the point: those who depend too much on computers almost always are on the run: from divorce, rejection, friendlessness, anger. Screens do not ambush happy people and wreck their lives. They are just there, available for the easing of pain and loneliness, as in earlier decades were trashy novels or booze or train-spotting or taris or barny religions. When a hostage becomes unnaturally obsessed with taming the beetles in his cell, we do not inveigh against the beetles. Rather, we deplore the cell. That is how we should think about

ter. School playing field sold off, leisure centre prices trebled? Try this virtual football game. I have watched generations of children with computers for 13 years now, and I never saw one yet who did not, after a reasonable session, glance up at the window and decide to go out in the garden and play with the dog. It is profoundly upsetting to think of children who do not have that option.

As for family life being threatened, there is not much point shaking your fist in vainly at the electronics industry about that, either.

Any family which takes self-catering holidays without TV or computers in British weather knows perfectly well that children will happily play board-games with their parents for hours, or be read to, or have long, daft conversations. The problem is that on ordinary days both parents are exhausted by their jobs and frankly cannot face any of this stuff.

Parents not talking to children enough, families not bonding, is not to be simplistically blamed on computer leisure. It is our own fault for being so stressed and materialistic and hellbent on having it all. It is also our own fault, not the censor's, if young children play disturbingly violent computer games: it is a parent's job to know which cassette is in the slot. There is a peculiar, startling form of neglect observable in many affluent families which does not bother to check even that; but if you haven't time to watch the screen for a while and discuss why some things are sick, then why on earth have children in the first place?

And when the inevitable moment comes when the offspring stump off alone to their rooms and positively demand the isolation the Chief Rabbi so deplores, there is nothing new or high-tech about that, either. I used to shut myself up for days with Bob Dylan and detailed, 50-point plans for running away. One of my brothers vanished into his bedroom for two whole years, and emerged having taught himself the melodeon. Adolescence is a mysterious thing. We all get through it in the end. With luck, the happy home is still there when we do.

But either way, a family life which can be blown apart by 32-bit technology must have been pretty rickety to start with.

# Libby Purves

These dingbats are the exception rather than the rule. I also suspect that a great many happy Jewish families think the Chief Rabbi is over-egging it, because in their house, when it is time for a family meal or prayer, the parents just say so, and that is that. I further guess that plenty of Jewish families do as we did, eschew isolated pursuits and end up all gathered round the screen shrieking encouragement and abuse at the player as his go-kart ricochets from one wall to the other. If you are really determined to bond, you can do quite a lot of it round the Nintendo.

Far more serious is the fact that thousands of children are offered virtually no alternative to their screens. The rise of this technology has merely masked and softened a far greater evil, the culpable erosion of community resources and safe public space. No garden to play in? Stay indoors with Super Mario. The street isn't safe because of crime and traffic, the park is full of used needles and has no attendant? Oh well, stay in your bedroom with your compu-

# Never again, Josephine

## Peter Stothard remembers one of his old friends

It was hard to see Josephine last week without wondering how much longer she could go on. She had successfully survived an operation on her cataracts: a man had come and taken her to an ophthalmic surgeon in Newmarket and her left eye was suddenly a whole lot brighter; but she was still the oldest lady in her home by far and nothing like as brisk as in her circus-performing days.

Her biggest problem was in feeding herself. The servants would help to get ready her grapes in the way that she liked them best. But over the centuries her family had evolved a complex tradition of tossing up meat and vegetables into the air before eating them. About a week ago she began to find this trick harder and harder to perform. She would hurl bits of banana to the ceiling while her mouth would catch almost nothing coming down. Her daily allotment of calories was scattered all over her bedding, a sight that was most distressing to the many visitors who paid her court. It might have been possible to force-feed Josephine. But in the end it all seemed too undignified. An excess dose of anaesthetic seemed the better way forward.

She had lived almost all of her life in Regent's Park, latterly in the corner house of a special row built for her and her relatives. She first came to London in 1952 after a short, controversial sojourn in Wilkie's Circus of New Brighton, Cheshire. Her difficulty, then as now, was a reluctance to behave other than as her inheritance had taught her. To toss up food before eating was a circus trick of a sort but it was also family trait, like the flashing of her long eyelashes: she was reluctant to learn any new tricks and that is why, according to the gossip of her London admirers, she had to start a new life down south.

She ought to have had a large family but somehow, for reasons that were never quite clear and may or may not be connected to the Wilkies of New Brighton, she produced only one offspring and that was stillborn. Her first partner was a fellow circus artist from whom she was separated soon after they both arrived in London; he died in 1960. Her second male friend, who went by the name of Horatio, was introduced to her in 1953 this relationship was not greatly more successful and many friends were sceptical of the story that he had died of a tumour in his bile duct.

By 1989 she was suffering from the kind of hormonal changes that can so often afflict a female once her best baby-rearing days have past. After the stillbirth her doctors recommended radical surgery. Josephine was therefore never to know at first hand the more bizarre birth rituals of her family. If she had lived in India or Africa, where her grandparents were born and where many of her extended family live still, she would have spent her confinement behind a walled wall with only a tiny chink left for feeding. While Josephine would have become fat of belly and cheerfully feeble in limb, her man of the moment would have been wearing himself senseless with trips to find her tasty morsels. As Dr Livingstone first observed, the males of her Buceroid clan make extraordinary efforts to package their pregnant partners' food in the most appetising way. Frequently they die before the task is done.

For Josephine, however, the ways of child-rearing were of no more account than were the famous descriptions of her ancient forebears by Pliny the Elder and *Aldrovandus the Bolognese*. This was perhaps a benefit to her self-esteem since Pliny, writing in Book X of his *Natural History*, thought the stories of those ancestors to be so extraordinary as to be merely mythical tales, like those of winged horses and griffins. He could not conceive of any fellow creature that had such a giant, boney excrecence on its head.

Aldrovandus, a more open-minded man working with the benefit of an extra 1,500 years of science, was no less harsh in his aesthetic judgment: Josephine's family had best be compared to that of the rhinoceros.

Today there are two new Great Indian Hornbills in Regent's Park. They are young; their keepers say that they are bonding well; and perhaps they will be more successful than Josephine in the breeding business which, for all endangered species, is now the prime business of all the best zoos around the world.

Meanwhile Josephine is on her way to the National Museums of Scotland, where her artherosclerosis and cataract-free eyes can be checked out in the interests of ornithology. And those of us who for so long have slipped regularly into the tropical inhabitant, probably the oldest member of her species to have ever lived anywhere, will be disappointed. That may be too weak a word.

The corner-cage is now home to two Tawny Frogmouths, swift-like birds with wide, gaping bills: fine birds in their way, but I doubt that I shall be seeing them so much.

# Hoofing it

ROBERT SANGSTER is galloping off into tax exile. The king of the horse-breeders has sold his house in London and intends to give up his British nationality and move to Barbados. Thus, he will jump over both the English winter and Gordon Brown's chilly financial regime. Sangster, now 62 and with wife number three (with whom he is pictured and the second one to be called Susan), hails from the Vernons Pools dynasty, and built up his horsey empire by buying a nag called Chalk Stream for his first wife, Christine. He boasts that some of his stallions are able to service more than 300 mares a year, and, in similar vein, plays host to the likes of Joan Collins and Rod Stewart in his box at Ascot.

Sangster, who used to dash out of the stalls with Jerry Hall, is tiring of dank London: "I spent last winter in the Caribbean and I am out of the country a lot," he tells me. "I have paid English taxes for the last four years. But I am now a Barbados resident, and I am taking steps towards becoming a Barbadian." Don't annoy him by repeating the bippant rhyme, "Sangster's Gangsters". He was a light-heavyweight champion in the British Army, skills that may come in handy in Barbados.

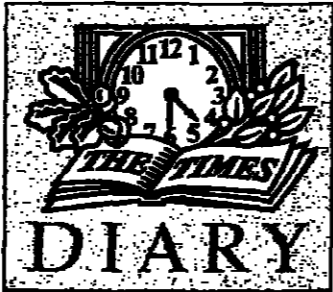
● No 10 is so concerned by cruel claims that it is run by control freaks that it sent out a bleeper message to special advisers yesterday.



day: ordering them to say that No 10 is not full of control freaks.

## Sits, Vac.

CHARLIE WHELAN has his eye on the top job. Gordon Brown's bluff media enforcer confides his dark ambitions over post-prandial coffees in the fabulously resto press dining room at the Commons. He is asked, teasingly, what he wants to do next. His reply? "Alastair Campbell's job. That would be the



best." Campbell will be delighted: he is a keen observer of Whelan's independent Treasury powerbase.

● JEAN PAUL GAULTIER dented the Duchess of York's pride at the MTV Music Awards in Milan. Accosting a redhead, the designer cried: "Geri - how are you?" When the Duchess turned, revealing she was not Ginger Spice, Gaultier was rather apologetic.

## Heaven's gate

J.R. EWING would find the Bishop of Guildford's tastes fine. The Right Rev John Gladwin wants Southfork-esque electronic gates at the drive of Willow Grange, his residence. They will set the Church Commissioners back £10,000, the same as a priest for almost a year. One justification is that one of

Gladwin's bishop chums purchased the same model. His aides recognise the bishop's duty to give shelter: "We get an extraordinary number pulling in, some of whom ask for directions." Blighters.

● REFUSING to bow to media pressure, Timmy the Tortoise, the Earl of Devon's 157-year-old beast, is refusing to go to bed. The BBC wants to film him turning in this winter at Powderham Castle. Oblivious to the PR potential, he is still pottering around the grounds.

## Running out

MIKE BREARLEY is battling with Chris Cowdrey to become the new



face of cricket on BBC. Auntie Beeb is in crisis after losing Richie Benaud to upstart Channel 4, which has also won the right to cover Tests. The Beeb has also lost Tony Lewis to MCC, and Geoff Boycott ran himself out after his innings in the French courts. In response, the BBC has drawn up a shortlist with Brearley and Cowdrey the only names. Brearley (a psychoanalyst) would be the armchair tactician's choice; Cowdrey (pictured, son of Sir Colin) is the housewife tony candidate.

● DELAYED reaction from big Tommy Graham, the suspended Labour MP, to my disclosure that he has been struck off the menu of the Commons Catering Committee. "They can get stuffed," he tells me. "They can get on with their catering. I'll get on with the eating." Sensible chap.

## 'Allo 'Allo

FROM such beauty pours ugliness. Elle Macpherson, the Australian "super" model now speaks only French - with that distinctive Aussie twang, which might be termed Frangalish. Her linguistic problems are particularly acute when she is with her nine-month-old son Flynn (he was sired by her French partner Ardi Bussan), ac-



ording to an Aussie airline. "It created enormous confusion," says a stewardess, fed her tangled syntax. "Our crew are multilingual, but French isn't common and she wouldn't speak anything else."

● THE popularity of Camilla: Alexandra Bastedo has given her cat the same name as the Prince of Wales's friend after the actress and Patrick Garland, her director husband, joined the royal couple on a Greek cruise this summer.

JASPER GERARD





## FARM PRICES

CAP reform is needed as well as emergency funding

"Up corn, down horn" is an old farming proverb. When corn is expensive, beef is cheap. That simple dictum does not apply to the current farm crisis. Not a single sector of the industry is untouched. Yesterday Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, told the Commons that the Government would spend £120 million to alleviate the farmers' plight. Yet, as both he and the farmers readily acknowledge, spending more money cannot buck global markets, nor can it substitute for the reform of the common agricultural policy which Europe desperately needs.

Critics often accuse farmers of special pleading. The whole of the economy is exposed to the whirlwinds of the worldwide marketplace. Agriculture employs only 2 per cent of Britain's workforce, less than any other developed country except one, Singapore. Yet farmers receive £3 billion a year of support from the European Union, and a further £800 million from Whitehall. Why do they deserve more money now?

In their defence, farmers argue that the current crisis is exceptional, buffeting them from all sides. The main culprits have been sterling's strength, the ban on the export of British beef, a glut of cereals, lamb, pork and beef and the economic collapse in Asia and Russia. The value of some foodstuffs has fallen so low that it barely covers the cost of their production. Ewes that cost £16 each to raise are selling for the price of a packet of crisps. Across the industry as a whole, farm incomes plummeted by almost a half last year, and are forecast to fall by another two thirds this year.

Against this background, the public expects farmers to be guardians of the countryside. Stewardship of Britain's hedgerows and moors, fields and fens comes at a price. Market collapse, followed by an exodus of farmers, could threaten the land's husbandry. The Government and

public must acknowledge that preventing this costs money.

Yet the biggest villain in the piece has been the common agricultural policy itself. The measures Mr Brown announced yesterday, such as increasing help for hill farmers by £60 million, reflects the CAP's weaknesses. Rather than helping small farmers on family farms by supplementing their incomes, production-based subsidies have gone to those who least need them. Twenty per cent of farmers on the most efficient farms, often with the best land, receive 80 per cent of the subsidies.

The European Commission's proposals for the CAP's reform aim to expose farmers to more of the rigours of the marketplace. Although this is a move in the right direction, the new system will still be biased in favour of big industrialised producers who can best afford to do without help, and will cost about £2.5 billion a year more than the CAP does now. EU officials claim that this would still be cheaper than keeping the same system once poorer countries join — an assumption described as "unwise" by the European Court of Auditors at the weekend. As the cost of the CAP rises, the pressure mounts on Mr Brown and his European colleagues to devise a more effective rural strategy.

Farmers cannot afford to wait for the EU to come to its senses. Their complaint that supermarkets are overpricing their produce is currently under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading. Farmers should be encouraged too to think of more innovative ways to add value to their produce and to cut costs so that, when both corn and horn are down, they can weather storms better. But in this battle against the elements, regulations and tight profit margins, the added ordeals inflicted on them by the cost-rigging, fraud-blighted CAP should unite the whole nation in anger.

## OPEN HEALTH

Medicine must follow the path set by schools

Education used to be known as the "secret garden" from which parents were actively kept out. Much daylight is now shed upon schools and teachers. Where the culture of secrecy and cover-up can still flourish is in the health service — as a public meeting in Folkestone for victims of the struck-off gynaecologist, Rodney Ledward, heard last night.

Mr Ledward was finally banned from practising after a ten month inquiry found that a third of his operations had resulted in serious complications and 12 of those examined showed evidence of incompetence. The General Medical Council afterwards heard horrendous tales of professional misconduct. He removed one patient's ovaries without her permission and so botched the operation that she lost two litres of blood. Another patient suffered a potentially fatal perforated bowel. Now up to 180 women have told the hospital that he mishandled their operations.

It was only when the surgeon bungled badly, and then switched off his mobile phone after an operation, that the hospital was forced to call in a colleague, John Davies, to save the patient's life. Mr Davies was so appalled by what he found that he reported the incident to the hospital's medical director.

But the pattern of Mr Ledward's incompetence went back seven years. So how was a surgeon whose patients nearly bled to death allowed to operate for so long? Many of the answers lie in a culture in which patients have little power, whistleblowers are penalised and doctors' careers depend on their colleagues' approbation. Health is at least ten years behind education in its openness and accountability. Doctors, like teachers in the old days,

are allowed to regulate themselves — or to cover up for each other. GPs may know which are the bad consultants, and so do other hospital doctors and managers; but patients are the last to discover, sometimes too late.

Greater transparency is beginning to come. After the Bristol heart scandal this summer, the Department of Health insisted that all doctors should take part in clinical audits to assess their performance and that a Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) should inspect hospitals and their doctors once every four years. Meanwhile, clinical outcomes — for instance, deaths after heart surgery or the length of time a hip replacement lasts — will be published for each hospital team.

These are all welcome incursions into the doctors' secret domain. But they do not go far enough. In America, patients can go into their public library and look up the performance of every single specialist. Doctors complain that "raw" league tables are misleading; the best consultants may take on the most difficult cases, who are more likely to die. But the science of risk adjustment has been well developed in the US so that statistics can easily be weighted to reflect the initial health of the patient. British doctors should have their individual performances open to scrutiny too.

And when the CHI is set up, it should be seen to be independent of the medical profession. Like Ofsted, its education equivalent, the CHI should contain a large lay element and be chaired by a figure prepared to take on the powerful vested interests of doctors. For while consultants are allowed to hide key data behind the veil of professional secrecy, both public confidence and health will be at risk.

## THE TENDER TAJ

Too many feet destroy the marble mausoleum

Next year has been designated "Visit India Year". And yet, as the sub-continent prepares to embrace ever more tourists, its most popular monument, the Taj Mahal, may be forced to close. The centuries have taken their toll on this minareted mausoleum. Chronic pollution cancers the marble; dust storms erode the red Sikri stone. But above all, it is the trudging of more than ten million pairs of feet a year which are threatening this paragon of Mogul art. By their very presence, tourists are destroying the thing they most seek.

Once travelling was an arduous and expensive affair. The cultural pilgrimage of the 18th-century Grand Tour was a once-in-a-lifetime ordeal, affordable only by the wealthy few. But now, as package holiday companies jostle for customers and airlines compete with their cut-price deals, people who might once have been content to go to their local sea-side are to be found in Goa instead. But all too often their numbers not only destroy the mood and atmosphere of a historic site, but damage the materials from which it is made.

At Lascaux in France, where moisture from the breath of visitors condensed on the cave paintings and harmed them, a replica of the Lascaux "experience" was created near by. Similarly, the Italians are constructing a copy of 1st-century Rome from the breath of visitors condensed on the cave paintings and harmed them. Restricting entry to the Taj may risk a loss of tourist money, but to continue to allow unrestricted entry will kill the goose which lays the golden egg.

chariot races round a faux Colosseum. These theme park-style mock-ups should be encouraged. For those simply in search of a fun day out, they not only provide more in the way of entertainment, but relieve visitor pressure on historic sites.

There are, however, less radical ways of balancing the requirements of conservation, access and the interests of the local community at historic sites. Simple restrictions on ticket numbers make a good start. And by issuing tickets on a first come, first served basis, rather than raising the entry price, those who are most interested, and hence most prepared to queue, are the ones who will gain access. Visitor centres can also be removed from a historic site, with park and ride buses linking the two, the rhythm of the transport controlling numbers of visitors at any one time.

The Indian Government will have to consider some of these measures if it is to preserve its most popular monument for posterity. It could begin with a tip from the Germans. Visitors to many a schloss are not allowed to enter with shoes. Shuffling in a pair of borrowed overslipers not only prevents harsh erosion of delicate floors, but helps with polishing. Beyond this, the Indian Government will have to consider far more severe measures. Restricting entry to the Taj may risk a loss of tourist money, but to continue to allow unrestricted entry will kill the goose which lays the golden egg.

## Lords stick to their guns on closed-list voting system

From the General Secretary of the Movement for Christian Democracy

Sir, The only trace of a manifesto commitment from the Labour Party to change the voting system for election to the European Parliament was a passing reference to their support for a proportional system of voting.

There is no mention in their manifesto of any party list system, closed or otherwise. They have no mandate from the electorate to introduce such a system. For voters to have known about Labour's commitment to closed lists, they would have had to read, rather than a party manifesto, the written results of the pact struck during the summer of 1996, by a Lib-Lab committee chaired by Robin Cook and Robert Maclennan.

The committee was made up of two or three constitutional "experts", and a handful of MPs and peers, who were all appointed to the committee by party bosses. In its report the committee binds both parties to the support of a list system. One has to wonder why this was not repeated in Labour's election manifesto.

Paradoxically this same unelected committee concluded in its report that there is too much power centralised in the hands of too few people, and too little freedom for local communities to decide their own priorities.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN BARTLEY,  
General Secretary,  
Movement for Christian Democracy,  
Mayflower Centre,  
Vincent Street, E16 1LZ.  
113173313@compuserve.com  
November 14.

From Mr Robert Evans, MEP for London North West (Party of European Socialists Group (Labour))

Sir, Lord Shore of Stepney is quoted as saying that the government plans for next year's European elections are about the "electorate versus the

selectorate" ("Defiant Lords challenge new law on voting", later editions, November 13).

At nine general elections over a period of 33 years, Peter Shore was the only Labour candidate presented to the voters of Stepney. Potential Labour voters could not choose the candidate to represent them, as this had already been done by the party members — the "selectorate" — and then their decision endorsed by the Labour Party nationally. The only choice would have been between the candidates of the different political parties.

In the Government's proposals for next year's European elections, the system is not very different. Labour and the other political parties will have chosen, by a variety of alternative methods, the list of candidates to represent them. In London, Labour has chosen ten people for ten vacancies, just as previously there would have been one candidate for one vacancy.

Labour is able to present to the voters of London a team; balanced by gender and ethnicity to reflect the rich diversity that is the nation's capital. For Lord Shore and other non-elected peers to try to prevent or stall this is not the way forward, in the interest of democracy. Labour voters or the electorate in general.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT EVANS,  
Labour Euro Office,  
Pavitt Hall, Union Road,  
Wembley, Middlesex HA0 4AU.  
November 13.

From Mr Peter John Carey

Sir, Far from being evidence of why hereditary peers should be abolished, last night's vote is overwhelming justification for the retention of a system that protects democracy from the power of the executive.

The defeated closed-list voting system is profoundly undemocratic. As voters we should be able to choose our

own representatives. A candidate's party affiliation may be the main influence in voters' choice, but it is not the sole influence and the right to choose between candidates as individuals should not be taken away.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER JOHN CAREY,  
105 Shaggy Calf Lane,  
Slough, Berkshire SL2 5HP.  
November 13.

From Mrs Norma Bagshaw

Sir, You report (November 13) that "Labour insisted the defeat was fresh evidence of why hereditary peers needed to be abolished... that without the hereditary peers' vote the Government would have won".

I had always believed that the standard of debate in the Lords was superior to that in the Commons and that the vast experience of both hereditary and life peers could be of value to the government of the day, and may result in modification of some proposed legislation.

However, if, as the report implies, the purpose of a reformed House of Lords will be to "rubber stamp" all government legislation, can anyone explain to me why the House of Lords will be reformed and not abolished? There must be less expensive ways to wield a rubber stamp.

Yours,  
NORMA BAGSHAW,  
59 Clement Road,  
Marple Bridge,  
Stockport SK6 5AG.  
November 13.

From Miss Diana Glyn Jones

Sir, Three cheers for the Lords. The Community is stuffed with faceless bureaucrats. Are we now to add faceless politicians?

Yours etc,  
DIANA GLYN JONES,  
Elm Vale Farm, Palgrave,  
Nr Diss, Norfolk IP22 1AB.  
November 12.

## Iraq's pain

From Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow (Labour)

Sir, Judge not a man, until you have worn his moccasins for a day. Your leader, "The last word — Saddam must not get another chance to cheat" (November 16), will doubtless gain sage approval in London. Consider, however, what you might feel if you were in the shoes of a citizen of Baghdad.

One and a quarter million children dead over seven years. Albert Reynolds, Senator Michael Langan, Peter Doyle, Brian Griffin and I were in the Teaching Hospital in Baghdad last Sunday, where five children die every day of avoidable disease. Schools without basic equipment. The once famous University of Baghdad reduced to penury. Pollution everywhere, oil slicks on roads, malfunctioning exhausts, black smoke billowing from chimneys; any progress made at Buenos Aires must be deeply harmed by what Iraq is doing to the global environment.

So without delay, an official delegation from Britain and the US should go to Iraq to talk to the proud Northern Arabs, on terms of dignity and attempted reconciliation. Not until we ourselves have met this moral obligation have we the right to contemplate raining missiles on the land that is the cradle of civilisation.

Yours etc,  
TAM DALYELL,  
House of Commons.  
November 16.

## Grammar schools

From the Headmaster of Caistor Grammar School, Lincolnshire

Sir, I warmly endorse the sentiments expressed in your leading article "Labour's blindspot" (November 16; see also report, same day).

Whilst the Labour Government cannot bring itself to abolish grammar schools, and the complexity of its proposed regulations leads one to suspect that it would actually rather see them continue, its conductor in opening the door to a succession of anti-selection campaigns is indeed damaging.

It is ironic that while the Government seeks to wash its hands of the issue by passing it over to local parents to decide, it is most likely that the initiative will not be seized by them (for they seem very largely content with the current arrangements) but by diehard old Labour supporters, stuck in a time warp, seeking the completion of a rigid educational system which has already been rendered out of date because of the government reforms. These ideological activists will be parachuted in to cause trouble in local areas all over the country.

It is critical that those who support selection continue to make the excellent case to retain the few remaining grammar schools that are doing so much to raise standards.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER HALE,  
Headmaster,  
Caistor Grammar School,  
Caistor, Lincolnshire LN7 6QJ.  
November 16.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## 'Frightening flood risk' to Venice

From Mrs Wendy Maas

Sir, I returned from Venice on October 11 and was horrified and saddened to see the amount of daily flooding. On October 8 not only was St Mark's Square flooded on to surrounding higher pavements, shops and alleyways, but so were the entrance halls to the Doge's Palace (no queues now) and the portals of St Mark's Basilica.

In many hotels facing the lagoon, waiters and customers were obliged to wear wellingtons supplied by the management, and a wet, whiskery rat was poised to jump into one hotel from the approaching duckboards, until shooed away by a porter.

A local church has been converted into an exhibition centre, outlining various schemes to protect Venice. Reinforcement of the coastline is taking place. However, the outstanding problem of agreement about the mobile flood barriers, highlighted by your excellent leader ("Buying time", November 9), puts Venice at continued and frightening risk.

Yours sincerely,  
WENDY MAAS,  
Bingley Seat, Woodbank Road,  
Rivelin, Sheffield S6 6GT.  
November 10.

## Theatre's contribution

From Mr P. W. James

Sir, In considering alternative uses for money spent on the Dome, Doris Lessing (letter, November 11) makes the point that when a theatre dies (her example is in New York) the surrounding area declines. This is demonstrably so in the UK. Fortunately, as I write, we have many living theatres which, in the teeth of cash squeezes, standstill funding or obstructive tax or planning regimes, somehow still manage to breathe life (social and economic) into a street, a town, a city.

It may seem philistine to measure a theatre's success by its contribution to civic planning or social cohesion, still more so to focus on its economic contribution to the national purse (London's West End theatres alone generate £1 billion of economic activity per annum). Yet these are the lines of argument which perhaps need to be pursued if policymakers are to get the message: theatre pays.

Yours faithfully,  
P. W. JAMES  
(Commercial Manager),  
The Society of London Theatre,  
32 Rose Street, WC2E 9ET.  
November 11.

## Later TV news

From Mr J. D. B. Miller-Stirling

Sir, The proposal to move News at Ten to a later slot (report and leading article, November 6; letters, October 21) prompts me to ask why the BBC's Nine O'Clock News should not be moved to 10 o'clock. ITV would get its extended evening programme and bedtime news addicts would still get their nightly "fix".

Would anyone notice the difference?

Yours faithfully,  
J. D. B. MILLER-STIRLING,  
118 Camden Hill Road,  
London W8 7AR.  
November 12.

## Hunting ban

From the Director-General of the National Trust

Sir, Record membership numbers, record levels of income from legacies, an unprecedented response to recent appeals, including £4 million raised in just 13 weeks for the purchase of two farms in central Snowdonia, all show that confidence in the National Trust is higher now than it has ever been. Moreover, when specifically invited to criticise the trust's management at last week's AGM (letter, November 12) less than 1 per cent of members chose to do so.

The Trust is fully aware that its decision not to renew licences for the hunting of red deer in the West Country has upset hunt supporters, but we cannot and will not allow this single issue to deflect us from the important work on which we are daily engaged with our farm tenants and our neighbours throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN DRURY,  
Director-General,  
The National Trust,  
36 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9AS.  
November 13.

## Whatever the weather

From Mr Des MacHale

Sir, Your weather forecast of November 11 for the Republic of Ireland predicts

Freshening southerly winds, with ales in exposed parts later.  
Hardly lot those Irish, drinking outdoors in such wet and windy weather.

Yours sincerely,  
DES MacHALE,  
24 Avonlea Court,  
Blackrock, Cork.  
stm2011@bureau.ucc.ie  
November 11.

## Costly bishops 'due for a cull'

From the Reverend Edward Underhill

Sir, It is said (report, November 13), to justify the need of drivers by bishops, that those who did have drivers used their time in the back of the car to write sermons. So now we know why some episcopal sermons are not as good as they should be. The time and place to write sermons is, as every young curate knows, in one's study before breakfast.

But let not this revelation of what bishops do in the back of their cars detract from the devastating fact that our bishops' expenses cost us £8 million and rising, in what the spokeswoman for the Archbishop of Canterbury describes as "... a time of growing demand": a demand for what we must ask.

For a number of years there has been a clamour from the ranks for a drastic reduction in centralisation, in the acres of paper we are flooded with, for less "top brass" and for the parishes to be allowed to get on with their work.

With £8 million on the bishops and about £5 million to service the General Synod, we in the parishes are finding it increasingly difficult to get our congregations to "tithes our incomes to pay for the ministry we need", as Lord Coggan put it in a succinct and memorable sentence. These latest figures will do little to halt the exodus of young professional men and women from the Church into the independent "house groups".

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD UNDERHILL,  
St George's Vicarage,  
327 Durham Road,  
Gateshead NE9 5AJ.  
November 13.

From the Reverend David Jennings

Sir, The issue that the Church of England ought perhaps to consider is not how much bishops cost but how many it can afford.

In 1994 there were 368 fewer stipendiary clergy than in 1993. If the rate of reduction were to continue there will be no full-time clergy in 30 years' time. However, there appears to have been no comparable reduction in the number of bishops.

Might there be an argument for a selective episcopal cull? There is the possibility that the Church will still have 108 full-time bishops when there are no clergy.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID JENNINGS,  
Rector,  
Burbage with Aston Flarmville,  
The Rectory, New Road, Burbage,  
Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 2AW.  
November 13.

## Rewarding rabbis

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, Jack Shamash's article about tipping rabbis ("Buy yourself something nice", Weekend, November 7) will have given readers the impression that the disasteful practice of offering gratuities is the norm. This may have been the case many years ago when they were unpaid, but I am astonished to hear that it still goes on.

Certainly in the Reform Jewish movement, this embarrassing old practice has been discouraged for a long time. We do not wish mourners, at a time of grief, to feel that they have to further reward clergy or cemetery staff when their synagogue fees have already paid for funeral expenses.

"... wears expensive suits and goes on skiing holidays" he certainly does not need her monetary thanks for doing his job, and our rabbis would not expect it.

Yours faithfully,  
BARRY HYMAN,  
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain,  
The Sternberg Centre for Judaism,  
80 East End Road, N3 2SY.  
hymanb@refsyn.org.uk  
November 10.

## Period pieces

From Mr James Bogle

Sir, I never did divine the significance of "semi-contemporary dwellings", seen some time ago on a housing development in Yorkshire (letters, October 26, 29; November 4 and 6). Anyhow, they weren't "semis".

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES BOGLE,  
8 Waller Road, SE14 5LA.

## Driving preference

From Mr Keith B. Pearson

Sir, At a hotel commandeered for the duration of the war by the RAF for trainee airmen there was an occasion when it seemed that those on the ground floor were required to go upstairs and those upstairs to come down with consequent turmoil on the stairs (letters, October 31, November 4, 12). A corporal, who today would be defined as having learning difficulties, sought to alleviate the chaos by shouting: "Keep to the left going up; keep to the right coming down."

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH B. PEARSON,  
27 Russell Hill,  
Purley, Surrey CR8 2JB.  
November 13.

THE TIMES  
OBITUARIES



### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 16: The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman, this afternoon gave a Lunch and chaired a Meeting of the Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Senior Fellow, this evening attended the Royal Academy of Engineering New Fellows' Dinner at Draxing Hall, Throgmorton Street, City of London.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr John Parsons (Deputy Treasurer of the Queen) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Ralph Freeman (former Consulting Engineer at Sandringham) which was held in St Margaret's Church Westminster Abbey, London, today.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
November 16: The Prince of Wales, President, Royal Shakespeare Company, this afternoon chaired the Annual Governors Meeting at the Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 16: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, this morning presented the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment with the Prince Andrew Barner at Palmerston North Showgrounds, New Zealand, and afterwards attended a Lunch at Lincoln's Inn, London.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Palmerston North City.

The Duke of York this evening attended a Reception given by the Governor-General at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Auckland.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 16: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this afternoon attended a Lunch and a Meeting for the Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association at Buckingham Palace.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
November 16: The Duke of Gloucester today visited the Headquarters of the National Criminal Intelligence Service and also the Headquarters of the South East Area Office of the National Crime Squad, London.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
November 16: The Duke of Kent this morning visited Vanners Silks, Weavers Lane, Sudbury, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk (the Lord Belisair).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Sudbury Town Hall and officially opened the new Gates of the Main Door.

The Duke of Kent afterwards visited Shawlands Housing Estate, Sudbury.

**HATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
November 16: Princess Alexandra this morning took part in Motability's Twenty First Anniversary celebrations by handing over the keys of the charity's one millionth car to a young girl, Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace.

### Today's royal engagements

Halfway Station, Haltwhistle, Northumberland, at 10.00 will visit Hexham Tans Rehabilitation Project, Hexham, at 11.00, will visit the new stand at Hexham Racecourse at 11.35, as president, Riding for the Disabled Association, and will open the Unicorn Centre, Stainton Way, Hemlington, Middlesbrough, at 2.30. Later she will attend their conference dinner at the Civic Centre, Burnas Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 6.30.

Princess Margaret, patron, will visit the Purine Research Laboratory, Thomas Guy House, Guy's Campus, King's College, London SE1, at 5.00.

Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Beilham and Maudslayi NHS Trust, will open the Lishman Unit at the Maudslayi Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5, at 2.00, and will attend a reception to be given by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Management at Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfield, London SE1, at 7.00.

**Musicians' Company**  
The Master of the Musicians' Company, Professor Malcolm Trap, presided at the Installation Dinner and Annual Awards Ceremony held at Merchant Taylors' Hall. The principal guests were Professor Sir James Black, FRs, and Professor Roma McKie. The Davidoff Quartet entertained, accompanied by The Master, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne was among the guests.

### Forthcoming marriages

**Mr R. Cunningham Forsyth and Miss A.F. McGregor**  
The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mrs Isobel Forsyth and the late Mr Claude Cunningham Forsyth of Edinburgh, and Ann Francesca, daughter of Mrs Sheila McGregor Hiltjens of Edinburgh, and Mr Frans M.J. Hiltjens, of Antwerp, Belgium.

**Mr J.M. Foster and Miss A.Y.C. Lin**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Professor and Mrs Paul Foster of Chichester, Sussex, and Angela, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Billy H.J. Lin, of Taipei, Taiwan.

**Mr D.A. Lyle and Mrs R.R. Allsopp**  
The engagement is announced between David Lyle, of London SW1, and Tania Allsopp, widow of Mark Allsopp of Manningtree, Essex.

**Mr E.H.G.B. Paige-Turner and Miss S. Holland-Bowen**  
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs Noel Paige-Turner, of Woodhayes, Hounslow, Devon, and Sophie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Holland-Bowen of The Manor House, Burton, Hampshire.

**Mr D.B. Schofield and Miss L.E. Dewey**  
The engagement is announced between David Bernard, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Robert Schofield, and Laura Elizabeth, daughter of Mr Neil Dewey and Mrs Angela Knight.

**Mr S.K. Sharma and Miss A.J. Hubbard**  
The engagement is announced between Sunil, son of Mr and Mrs Saroj Sharma of London, and Amanda, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Ray Hubbard, of Wigston, Leicestershire.

**Mr R.C. Wilson and Miss A.J. Mileham**  
The engagement is announced between Richard Colin, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Wilson, of London, and Felicity Anne, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs Patrick Mileham, of Gartmore, Perthshire.



Jenifer Wright, Andrej Jovanic and Ann Allen, students at the Royal Academy of Music, try out some of the rare 19th-century Italian mandolins and lutes at the Fine Art and Antiques Fair which opened at Olympia, London, last night

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS: Louis XVIII**, King of France 1755-1824, Versailles, 1755; August Mubius, astronomer, Schulpforta, Germany, 1790; Bernard Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, London, 1887; Queen Astrid, Consort of King Leopold III of Belgium, Stockholm, 1925; Rock Hudson, actor, Winnetka, Illinois, 1925.

**DEATHS: Queen Mary I** (Mary Tudor), reigned 1553-58, London, 1558; Auguste Rodin, sculptor, Meudon, France, 1917; Eric Gill, artist, sculptor and typographer, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, 1935.

The first ship passed through the Panama Canal, 1913.

### Corporation of London

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Lord Leveson of Porlock, accompanied by the Sheriffs, Mr Alderman Gavyn Arthur and Mr Brian Harris, and their ladies, entertained the outgoing Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Richard Nichols, at a banquet held last night at Guildhall, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Richard Nichols, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor were the speakers. Among those present were:

Mr Blair, Mrs Carey, Lady Irvine of Laird, the President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons and Mr Lord Robert, the Speaker, the Irish Ombudsman, the Lord of the Isles of Orkney and Shetland, the Lord of the Isles of the Hebrides, the Ambassador of Lebanon, the Ambassador of Switzerland, Mrs Nordmann, the Ambassador of Italy and Sicily, the High Commissioner for the Middle East, the Ambassador of China and Mme Chen Xiangping, the Ambassador of Germany and Mrs Molze, the American Ambassador and Mrs Lister, the Ambassador of Israel and Mrs Hagmann, the Ambassador of France, the Vice Mayor Zhou Mouyao of Shanghai.

The Lord Chamberlain and Lady

### Birthdays today

Ms Lesley Abdela, chief executive officer, Project Party, 53; Sir Jeremy Bechem, former chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 54; Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, 65; Dr S.L. Bragg, aeronautical engineer, 75; Dr C. Bulmer, former Rector, Liverpool Polytechnic, 78; Mr Danny DeVin, actor, 54; Mr John Dobson, fashion, 68; Mr David Emanuel, fashion designer, 46; Miss Fenella Fielding, orthopaedic surgeon, 67; the Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, former President, Methodist Conference, 85; General Sir Charles Guthrie, 65; Mr P.R.S. Harman, controller-general, chief executive, the Patent Office, 56; Mr Colin Hayes, painter, 79; Professor Anthony King, Professor of Government, Essex University, 64; Sir John Lowther, former Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, 75; Sir Charles Mackenzie, conductor, 73; Professor Ravinder Malni, rheumatologist, 61; Sir Leslie Murphy, former non-executive director, P.E.L. Group, 83; Mr Richard Parham, managing director, Peugeot Motor Company, 54; Lord Polwarth, 82; Professor L.H. Rees, former Dean, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, 56; Mr Jonathan Ross, broadcaster, 38; the Right Rev John Sauerthwaite, former Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, 73; Dr David Saul, former Premier of Bermuda, 59; Mr Martin Scorsese, film director, 56; the Earl of Winchelsea, 62.

### Luncheon

Guild of Editors  
Mr Geoffrey Martin, Head of Representation of the European Commission in the United Kingdom, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Guild of Editors Parliamentary and Legal Committee held yesterday at Bloomsbury House. Mr Nick Carter, chairman of the guild and Editor of the Leicester Mercury, presided.

### Memorial services

**Sir Ralph Freeman**  
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr John Parsons at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Ralph Freeman, consulting engineer, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

The Rev Roger Holloway, Priest Vicar officiated, assisted by the Rev David Corle. Team minister, Ministry among Artists in Britain, who led the prayers. Mr Roger Sainsbury, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and General Sir John Sibbon, Chief Royal Engineer, read the lessons.

Mrs Sarah Freeman's granddaughter, read from Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. Mr Colin Coulson, Chairman of Mouchel Consulting, gave an address.

The Rev Richard Le Bas Johnson was robed and seated in the Sanctuary.

After the service a selection of music by Arthur Sullivan was played by the Kent Wind Soloists. The Dutch Ambassador was represented by Mr Bas Becker. Among those present were:

Dr and Mrs Hugh Freeman (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Michael Corle (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Julia Freeman, Mrs Victoria Corle, Miss Louise Corle, Miss Diana Corle, Mrs Anna Freeman, Mr James Freeman and Miss Lucy Freeman (grandchildren), Mr James Freeman (brother), Mr and Mrs Derek Pearson (brother-in-law and sister), Major and Mrs John Freeman, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Freeman, Mrs Pam Freeman, Mrs Barbara Corle, Mrs D. Corle, Mrs A. M. Simpson, Mr A. H. Buzenhan, Miss E. C. Wright.

The Rev Lord and Lady Sandford, the Rev the Hon David Fletcher, Sir William Francis, Sir Alan Harris and Lady Elaine, Sir Julian Lay, Sir John Wilson, Sir John Lay (Charles Richardson), Vice-Admiral Sir Philip Watson, Lieutenant-General Sir David Williams, the Marquis of the Diplomatic Corps and the Hon Lady Westwell, Sir John and Lady Egan, Sir Ralph and Lady Roberts, Sir Denis Pearce, Sir Sydney and Lady Lapworth, Sir David Walker, Mrs Soper, His Honour Sir William and Lady Verney, Sir Iain and Lady Vallance, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Lady Condon, Sir Brian and Lady Patten, Sir Stanley and Lady Kalms, Sir Malcolm and Lady Midhurst, Sir Peter and Lady Bondick, Sir Michael and Lady Bates, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores of Westminster, Members of Parliament, Aldermen, Common Council, the Guild and Officers of the Corporation of London and their guests.

### Birthdays today

Ms Lesley Abdela, chief executive officer, Project Party, 53; Sir Jeremy Bechem, former chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 54; Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, 65; Dr S.L. Bragg, aeronautical engineer, 75; Dr C. Bulmer, former Rector, Liverpool Polytechnic, 78; Mr Danny DeVin, actor, 54; Mr John Dobson, fashion, 68; Mr David Emanuel, fashion designer, 46; Miss Fenella Fielding, orthopaedic surgeon, 67; the Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, former President, Methodist Conference, 85; General Sir Charles Guthrie, 65; Mr P.R.S. Harman, controller-general, chief executive, the Patent Office, 56; Mr Colin Hayes, painter, 79; Professor Anthony King, Professor of Government, Essex University, 64; Sir John Lowther, former Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, 75; Sir Charles Mackenzie, conductor, 73; Professor Ravinder Malni, rheumatologist, 61; Sir Leslie Murphy, former non-executive director, P.E.L. Group, 83; Mr Richard Parham, managing director, Peugeot Motor Company, 54; Lord Polwarth, 82; Professor L.H. Rees, former Dean, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, 56; Mr Jonathan Ross, broadcaster, 38; the Right Rev John Sauerthwaite, former Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, 73; Dr David Saul, former Premier of Bermuda, 59; Mr Martin Scorsese, film director, 56; the Earl of Winchelsea, 62.

### Dinners

The Royal Academy of Engineering  
The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, attended the 1998 Press Dinner held last night at the Drapers' Hall, London. The Speech of Welcome was given by the President, Sir David Davies, CBE, F.R.S. The Senior Fellow proposed the toast to New Fellows and Mr David Ruff, F.R.S., Chairman of Nottel Ltd, responded on behalf of the New Fellows.

Institute of United States Studies  
Baroness Thatcher, I.G. OM, FRCS, Chairman of the Board of the Institute of United States Studies, was the host at a dinner held last night at Lincoln's Inn in honour of Mr James A. Baker III after he had delivered the annual James Bryce lecture. Among those present were: Mrs Barbara Thatcher, Sir Denis Thatcher, Senator Fred Thompson, Mr and Mrs F.W. de Klerk, Mr Lloyd N Cutler and Mr Edwin Hinton III and Mrs Meese.

Anglo-Belgian Society  
Viscount Montgomery of Alamein presided at the annual dinner of the Anglo-Belgian Society held last night at the Anglo-Belgian Club to mark King's Day (November 15). Mr Neil MacGregor, Director of the National Gallery, was the guest of honour and principal speaker. The Belgian Ambassador also spoke. Sir Edward Jackson, chairman of the society, was among those present.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

### PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

**BIRTHS**  
RYAN - On November 10th in Dublin, to Jacinta (née Wynn) and Robert, a beautiful daughter, Isabella, a sister to Harriet, Lucas and Fitzan and cousin to Marissa.

**SMAY** - On 11th November to Susan (née Casson) and Brad (née Bradin) and Guy Shaw, a son.

**SMITH** - On November 8th 1998, to Nicola (née Lamb) and Alexander, a daughter, Isabelle Amy Protheroe.

**WEST/ASTOR** - On November 9th, to Dominic and Polly, a beautiful daughter of the couple, Isabella.

**DEATHS**  
**ALDRIDGE** - Betty Angela, died peacefully at her home, November 13th 1998 at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, Surrey. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the NSPCC or Alzheimer's Society. Burial at Putney Vale Crematorium, London SW15, on Friday November 20th at 11.00am. Family flowers only. Details from Frederick Payne Tel: 0181 560 3975.

**DEAN** - Peter, suddenly on November 12th aged 58 years. Formerly from Barnham, Kent. Beloved husband of Pat. Funeral service to take place at Broadland Church (Norfolk) on Friday November 20th at 10.00am. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to the Gordon Lifford Fund, c/o John Geddes and Sons, Independent Funeral Directors, 142-144, Broadland, Norwich Norfolk, NR13 4TL. Tel: 01603 712175.

**EDGAR** - Thomas Leslie M.B.E. Beloved husband, father and grandfather, on 14th November 1998, aged 79. Burial at Birmingham Cathedral, 20th November 11.30am.

**FENTON** - Derrick on 12th November 1998. Dearly loved father of Jennifer and Claire, grandfather of Alexander and Annelise. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium Tuesday 24th November 11.30am. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

**FRASER** - On November 12th 1998, peacefully at her home, Mrs Jean Fraser, 121, Yestman Hospital, Sherborne, Dorset. Ruth, aged 91 years. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Burial at W.S. Briar and Son Funeral Directors, 100 Southway Road, Sherborne Dorset. Tel: 01935 813247.

**GARWOOD** - Mary Elizabeth, wife of the late Captain John Garwood, died peacefully at her home, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, on November 12th 1998. Burial at Putney Vale Crematorium, London SW15, on Friday November 20th at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the NSPCC or Alzheimer's Society. Burial at Putney Vale Crematorium, London SW15, on Friday November 20th at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Details from Frederick Payne Tel: 0181 560 3975.

**GRITCHLEY-SALMONSON** - Major John Albert Myres on 14th November. Husband of the late Joan and father of Denis, Mary-Claire, Antonia and Henrietta. Funeral at 12 noon, 21st November at Kirtling R.C. Church, near Newmarket. Family flowers only please, but donations if wished to The British Legion or Countrywide Alliance. Coffin by Saffron Showers Hill, Sudbury, Walsden, CB11 2AQ.

**DAKES** - On November 13th, 1998, peacefully at her home, Mrs Dorothy Dakes, formerly Headmistress of Woodlands Hill School, died peacefully in Scarborough. Dearly loved husband of James and loving father of James and Claire. Service at Woodlands Hill School, Scarborough on Friday 20th November at 12.00 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Catherine's Hospice, c/o T. Chapman and Sons, 19-21 Ambrose Street, Scarborough, YO11 1HT.

**DAVISON** - Professor E. B. Davison (Bob) died on Saturday 14th November 1998 at his home, 128, The Avenue, Eastbourne, Surrey. Elizabeth, Mary, much loved wife of the late Eric, mother of Nicholas, Christopher, Virginia, Anthony and Peter and grandmother. Funeral service at 11.00am on Friday November 20th at 11.00am. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to the Gordon Lifford Fund, c/o John Geddes and Sons, Independent Funeral Directors, 142-144, Broadland, Norwich Norfolk, NR13 4TL. Tel: 01603 712175.

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**HAMILTON** - Denis Frederic, on 4th November 1998, at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Gloucester. Formerly of St. Margaret's Road, Wauxhall, London. Much loved husband of Mary, mother of William and David.

**HENDER** - On 13th November 1998, peacefully at her home, Mrs Margaret Henderson, 67, after a long illness bravely borne. Very much loved by her husband, Richard, her children, family and friends. Service of thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church, Liss, on Thursday November 19th at 4.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if wished to Musicians Benevolent Fund, 12 Ople Street, London, W1P 7LC.

**HOUGHAM** - Violet Emma, Sister Barbara, Daughters of the community of St. Mary's Church, Liss, on Thursday November 19th at 4.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if wished to Musicians Benevolent Fund, 12 Ople Street, London, W1P 7LC.

**LAMBERT** - Ruth (née Fleming) on 14th November at Amersbury, Berkshire. Beloved wife of the late Mr J.O. Lambert, mother of Janet White and sister of Evelyn Pond, died peacefully on November 14th 1998. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Amersbury, Berkshire. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to the Gordon Lifford Fund, c/o John Geddes and Sons, Independent Funeral Directors, 142-144, Broadland, Norwich Norfolk, NR13 4TL. Tel: 01603 712175.

**LATIMER** - Newcastle upon Tyne, peacefully after a short illness on November 12th 1998. Mrs Jean Latimer (the principal office he held in local and national associations was as follows: President NED Counties (1987), President ASDA (1978), Chairman GB (1987). Beloved husband of Nell, a dearly loved father and grandfather. Funeral service at 11.00am on Friday 20th November at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1M 4AR.

**LYNE** - peacefully at home on November 11th in his 98th year, Edwin, loved husband of the late Mrs Mary Lyne, a dear step-father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Funeral service at Woodlands Hill School, Scarborough on Tuesday November 17th at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please.

**MARSHALL** - On 11th November Mrs Mary (Peggy), dearly loved sister of Philip and Roger and sister-in-law of Joyce. Requiem Mass at St. Catherine Church, Palatine Road, Withingdale, Lancashire on Thursday November 19th at 10.30am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to the National Osteopaths Society PC Box 10, Radstock, Bath, BA3 3TB. Tel: 01261-891-9536.

**MAYER** - Peacefully on November 12th 1998, Joyce Evelyn, aged 85 years. Beloved wife of the late Mr J.O. Mayer. Founder of Millfield School, Dorset. Beloved mother of Jacqueline and the late Jillian, adored by her children and great-grandchildren. Funeral service at Walla Cathedral on Monday November 23rd at 11.00am. Private cremation. Enquiries and if desired donations for Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o Forray and Son, 28 High Street, Buntingford, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, CB9 8BY.

**NEWALL** - On November 14th 1998, peacefully, Frederick Lionel, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Bridget, Robert and Jennifer, mother of Robert, Stephen, Robina, Thomas, Philip, Melissa and Joseph and father of the late Mrs. Michael and All Angels, Buntingford, Cambridgeshire. Funeral service on Monday 23rd November 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1M 4AR.

**MUTT** - On 12th November 1998 suddenly at her home in Yorkville, formerly of Lusk and St John's Wood, London. Edna, a dear mother and grandmother and friend of many. Service at Cliftonville Crematorium on Wednesday 25th November at 12.00 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to the R.S.P.C.A. c/o Ian Richardson, 217A Wakefield Road, Bury, Tel: 01274 282754.

**OATES** - On November 16th, peacefully at Heathcote, Mrs Mary Oates, a much loved wife of the late Mr J. Oates and mother of John, Louise, Victoria, Rebecca, Kate and Emma. Funeral at St. Mary's Church, Barton on Friday November 20th at 10.30am. No flowers but donations if desired to the National Osteopaths Society PC Box 10, Radstock, Bath, BA3 3TB. Tel: 01261-891-9536.

**PANHORST** - Dorothy (née Turner) of Overton, Hampshire. Beloved wife of the late Mr J. Panhorst and sister of Evelyn Pond, died peacefully on November 14th 1998. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Amersbury, Berkshire. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to the Gordon Lifford Fund, c/o John Geddes and Sons, Independent Funeral Directors, 142-144, Broadland, Norwich Norfolk, NR13 4TL. Tel: 01603 712175.

**PEARSON** - At home in Bridge of Allan on 13th November 1998 John (formerly of Glasgow), beloved husband of Margaret and father of Ian and Shona. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to the Gordon Lifford Fund, c/o John Geddes and Sons, Independent Funeral Directors, 142-144, Broadland, Norwich Norfolk, NR13 4TL. Tel: 01603 712175.

**PEDON** - Robert Allan, peacefully at his home, 11th November 1998. Late Chairman of P.L.L., previously member of Central Electricity Generating Board, passed away suddenly aged 77. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Greenock, on Friday 20th November 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if wished to the Alzheimer's Society, 12 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow CM8 1DA.

**STEPHENSON** - Gilbert Lawrence OBE on 15th November 1998. Beloved husband of Eleanor, father of Caroline and Joanna. Beloved father of Alexander, Edward, Emily and Olivia. Service of thanksgiving at St. Andrew's Church, Greenock, on Friday 20th November 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if wished to the Alzheimer's Society, 12 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow CM8 1DA.

**STONES** - Dennis Wilfrid (Bill) aged 87 suddenly but peacefully at the end of a long illness on November 14th 1998 at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Much loved husband of Blouise and father of Ann and Jim, father-in-law of Peter and John. Beloved father of Jane, Jenny, Jennifer and Oly. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service on Friday November 20th at 12.00pm at Reading Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Friends of Aldenham Road, Egham, Surrey. Thanking Service at St. Andrew's Church, 2.00pm, 20th March, 1999.

**WELLS-PESTEL** - Holly Erin, born 14th November 1943, died peacefully at her home, 11th November 1998. Dearly loved wife of Philip, mother of Rachel and Michael, and grandmother of Michael and Max, and sister of Frances and Karen. An inspiring teacher. All enquiries to Mrs Christine Stricker, Garsington, Oxfordshire, Tel: 01275 366000.

**THACKER** - Basant Shriviji Thacker of Dhanbad, India, on November 13th was 89, peacefully at his home in Harrow after a short illness. Dearly loved husband of Kiran, beloved father of Anand, Raju and Nikhil. Sadly missed by all his friends and family. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Greenock, on Friday 20th November 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to the Gordon Lifford Fund, c/o John Geddes and Sons, Independent Funeral Directors, 142-144, Broadland, Norwich Norfolk, NR13 4TL. Tel: 01603 712175.

**THAYLEN** - Edgar, died peacefully on 12th November 1998, after a long illness. Beloved husband of Mary. A much loved brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at 11.30am on Friday November 20th at 11.30am. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to the Gordon Lifford Fund, c/o John Geddes and Sons, Independent Funeral Directors, 142-144, Broadland, Norwich Norfolk, NR13 4TL. Tel: 01603 712175.

**TITLEN** - Barbara on 14th November aged 84 suddenly at her home at 11, St. Andrew's Church, Greenock, on Friday 20th November 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if wished to the Alzheimer's Society, 12 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow CM8 1DA.

**WADDELL** - I.K. (Jack), peacefully at his home, 14th November 1998. Beloved husband of Mrs. Jean, father-in-law of Peter and John. Beloved father of Jane, Jenny, Jennifer and Oly. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service on Friday November 20th at 12.00pm at Reading Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Friends of Aldenham Road, Egham, Surrey. Thanking Service at St. Andrew's Church, 2.00pm, 20th March, 1999.

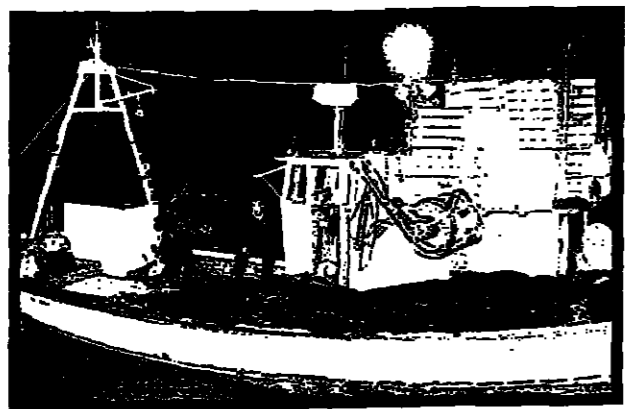
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كذا من الأصل



THE FIVES... Michael Knipe

Michael Knipe reports on Gibraltar's drive for full self-government and some fishy goings-on in British waters



Actions of Spanish boats have resulted in protests

# Anglo-Spanish accord caught in fishing row

Fishing by Spanish boats in British waters off Gibraltar is exacerbating the problems at the land frontier and threatening to derail British and Spanish government efforts to improve bilateral relations through a prime ministerial meeting in the spring.

Spanish fishing boats have been entering the Bay of Gibraltar in larger boats and greater numbers this year. They are fishing with nets and rakes, which contravenes Gibraltar's fish conservation regulations, and are refusing to move on when asked by the Royal Gibraltar Police.

Sir Richard Luce, the Governor of Gibraltar, who, under its Constitution, retains responsibility for defence and law and order, expressed concern that the situation could escalate into violence and said London had protested strongly to Madrid over the incursions.

Sir Richard has described the actions as provocative and intimidating. "This represents an unacceptable challenge to British jurisdiction and control of our waters," he says.

In what seems to be concerted action, Spanish customs officials and police at the land frontier have been checking passports particularly slowly recently, causing queues of more than three hours for motor traffic and up to 90 minutes for pedestrians. The Governor says the slow procedures were clearly deliberate and that "the people in the queues, many of them elderly, were being treated like cattle".

On a recent frontier crossing, Sir Richard said that he had witnessed intolerable harassment from the Spanish Government. He felt deeply angry at what were disgraceful scenes: "This is not the kind of treatment of human beings that we should expect to see in the European Union among civilised democratic countries." It was "a deliberate flouting of the spirit of the law concerning free movement within the European Union".

The fishing incidents were among issues discussed by Tony Blair and José María Aznar, Spain's Prime Minister, when they met this month. They agreed that both Governments wanted a return to the situation that prevailed until this year, when there were far fewer incursions and the fishermen moved out of the bay when asked to do so by police.

Sir Richard said the meeting had made it clear to everyone concerned that Gibraltar's laws, not Spain's, apply throughout British waters around the Rock.

# Bound for a modernised link with Britain

Specific proposals for changes to Gibraltar's Constitution, designed to end its 294-year-old colonial status, are under discussion between the Gibraltar Government and the Foreign Office.

This will be the most significant constitutional development for Gibraltar since the introduction of a written Constitution 30 years ago with which the British Parliament established Gibraltar's Legislative Council and House of Assembly and gave it domestic self-government.

A joint working party of three Gibraltarians and three Foreign Office officials met in October to hammer out the details. Another meeting is due to take place later this month and Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, is hoping to conclude this phase of the process by the end of the year. "We have put together detailed ideas of how we would like our Constitution modernised while preserving British sovereignty, as Gibraltarians are keen to do," Mr Caruana says.

"The joint working party is going through them to see what the distance is between us in terms of what we want and what the UK may be willing to give. This is a preliminary step, and as soon as it is concluded, the next stage will be to widen the consultation process by convening a select committee of the Gibraltar Parliament. This will not just consider the Government's proposals, but will also take evidence and opinions from the widest possible cross-section of the community in the hope that a consensus view will emerge that we can then put to the people in a referendum which, he says, would meet UN requirements on self-determination. There would be no breach of the Treaty of Utrecht, under which Spain ceded its sovereignty of Gibraltar to Britain in 1713.

"In our view," Mr Caruana says, "this would end the colonial status of Gibraltar and constitute a tailor-made fourth option to decolonisation provided for in the relevant UN resolution on decolonisation."

While Mr Caruana hopes that this will clarify Gibraltar's status internationally, he does not expect it to put an end to Spain's claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar. He believes that the British Government should adopt a much tougher stand against Madrid, which he says is leading a campaign of pressure and harassment against Gibraltar's inhabitants.

Spanish frontier guards persistently subject traffic across the land frontier to delays. Maritime and air links between Gibraltar and Spain are still strained. Gibraltar's telephone communications are heavily restricted and Gibraltarians are often discouraged from participating in international events.

"Britain's present policy of not engaging or calling Spain sufficiently to account is ineffectual and counter-productive," says Mr Caruana. "It encourages a Spanish hard line since Madrid knows that it can pursue this policy with impunity."

"Spain will not moderate its actions until Britain begins to exercise leverage. If no one calls the country to book about it, then it will continue to do so."

"The UK and, indeed, other member states that also have responsibilities in this respect should insist that Spain does not engage in such un-European measures. It cannot get out of its obligations under the Treaty of Rome simply because it has a historical claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar. Yet the European member states are allowing Madrid to get away with precisely that attitude."

Mr Caruana says that Britain and European member states should make it clear to Madrid that there is a price to pay for adopting such obstructive policies. Britain should use selective action against Spain for its "unhelpful, obstructive and un-European attitude towards Gibraltar". He insists that it is Britain's constitutional, political and moral obligation to uphold and defend Gibraltar's legal rights and legitimate aspirations.

Mr Caruana says that the Foreign Office has facilitated the meetings of the working parties and is not impeding the Gibraltar Government's proposals, so long as they do not transgress the 1713 treaty. Under its terms, Spain ceded sovereignty over the Rock to Britain perpetually and Britain agreed to offer Gibraltar to



'Britain should make it clear to Spain that there is a price to pay for its unhelpful and obstructive attitude towards Gibraltar'

Peter Caruana  
Chief Minister, Gibraltar



The House of Assembly: constitutional change may be looming

Spain should it ever wish to relinquish sovereignty. It is a promise successive governments in Madrid have kept close to their hearts while flouting the terms of the treaty.

Mr Caruana concedes that there has been some concern at the Foreign Office over how Spain would react to the constitutional changes that are being planned. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has reassured him on this. "I drew encouragement from that."

# Offshore banking draws the funds

IN INSURANCE, banking and investment services, Gibraltar's regulatory and supervisory procedures are as high and as strict as the City of London's, and its membership of the European Union gives it an advantage over many other offshore centres. So the Rock's offshore financial business is growing.

The banking sector grew by 15 per cent over the past 12 months. Much of this business has stemmed from the investment service needs of what bankers call "Hinwis" — high net worth individuals.

Along with more modestly financed retirees, many wealthy expatriates live in the Iberian peninsula. Gibraltar provides many of them with financial services they feel they can trust. There are more than 30 banks and other financial institutions based on the Rock offering a full range of banking services, along with a host of accountancy firms, including five of the big six international concerns, and more lawyers per capita than anywhere else in the world, most of whom specialise in handling tax-exempt companies, trusts and other complex financial services.

Anthony Fisher, the development director of the Gibraltar Finance Centre, says: "Tailored banking services to wealthy expatriates is something in which we have great experience and is a key growth area."

"The wealthy expatriate community in the Iberian peninsula is growing faster than anywhere else in the world." One of the attractions of Gibraltar is that, so long as they have residential accommodation on the Rock for at least seven months a year and live there for at least 30 days, high net worth individuals can have their tax capped at £20,000.

There for at least 30 days, high net worth individuals can have their tax capped at £20,000.

There for at least 30 days, high net worth individuals can have their tax capped at £20,000.

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## Big Opportunities

كنا من الأصل

Michael Knipe on Gibraltar's plans to be a lucrative business hub between southwest Europe and North Africa

# The Rock's on an economic roll

For 30,000 people living on a plot of land not much bigger than Hyde Park, Gibraltarians have made remarkable strides in the 16 years that have elapsed since the ending of Gibraltar's role as a military garrison and Royal Navy dockyard.

Tourists from cruise liners and thousands of shoppers from across the frontier with Spain still throng the central part of Main Street, the curious blend of British high street and Mediterranean bazaar, where English-style pubs and fish and chip shops abound. And "Llanito", a form of Spanish, reverberates around the buildings now that motorised traffic has been banished.

In the past few years the Rock has revitalised its economy and shed its reputation as a centre for drug-smuggling and money-laundering. Its well-regulated and supervised activities as a financial centre have been held up by the British authorities as a benchmark for offshore probity.

With no obvious resources other than its strategic location, the community has managed to become self-sufficient, requiring no budgetary contributions from Britain. There are about 20,000 Gibraltarians descended from Genoese, Maltese, Spanish, Portuguese, Moroccan and Sephardic Jews who settled on the Rock after an Anglo-Dutch force captured it in 1704. Only about 100 Spaniards stayed on.

Today Gibraltar's port has become the largest ship-bunkering facility in the Mediterranean. The Gibunko Group, which owns and operates a fleet of dedicated bunker-supply vessels, delivers more than 2.5 million tonnes of bunker fuels to more than 3,500 ships a year — more than two thirds of the Gibraltar market — compared with the 250,000 tonnes it delivered ten years ago. The number of merchant vessels calling at the port is expected to be more than 5,500 this year, compared with 3,700 last year.

To provide the necessary commercial space within the port to expand the range of services, £10 million has been earmarked for reclamation work to lengthen a jetty and to reclaim more land between some existing berths.

Joe Holliday, the Minister of Tourism, says: "Gibraltar is on a straight line between the Americas and Suez Canal, so



Gibraltar's port has become the largest ship-bunkering facility in the Mediterranean — and it is getting bigger

it is well placed to become a hub for southwest Europe and North Africa."

The privatised dockyard, now owned and operated by Cammell Laird, is doubling its workforce this year. A £3 million wine bottling plant, said to be the most modern in Europe, opened last summer, and in the new year Gibraltar will become host to three telecommunications satellite ground stations servicing Asia, Africa and Europe, which will bring big licensing fees, as well as new jobs in telecommunications.

As for the tourism and financial services sectors, they are going from strength to strength. Per capita income is £11,623 and the Gibraltar Government expects to make a budgetary surplus of £12 million to £15 million this year.

Paul Canessa, the telecommunications regulator designate, says the attractions of Gibraltar for the satellite stations were not only its location, but also its favourable tax regime and English-based legal jurisdiction.

In the financial services sector there is some concern over the eventual impact of European Union and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development codes aimed at curbing what is regarded as harmful tax competi-

tion. But the Government is conducting a complete review and restructuring of its taxation and public finance regulations to ensure that the tax system does not fall foul of the codes.

Beyond that, many Gibraltarians see the Rock's economic future being more broadly based on its developing role as a financial, communications and administrative entrepôt at the heart of an embryonic western Mediterranean region.

In a rare display of political co-operation, Peter Montegriffo, the Minister for Trade and Industry, hosted a lunch in Brussels last month at which delegations from the Spanish provinces of Andalusia and

Murcia took part fully in the proceedings, despite Madrid's claim to Gibraltar's sovereignty. The aim was to launch a regional grouping to develop economic links between southwest Europe and northwest Africa. Called the West Mediterranean Economic Forum, it includes Morocco, Tunisia and Malta, as well as Gibraltar and the two Spanish regions.

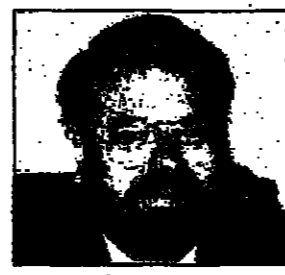
Mr Montegriffo says: "It is an initiative we want to expand. We are moving towards trying to consolidate the efforts of the forum by getting private sector companies to participate."

After the meeting, Mr Montegriffo brought together a doz-

en of the leading private sector concerns operating in Gibraltar, including banks, telecommunications companies and legal firms and urged them to join the initiative. He says: "Gibraltar is prepared to put up 50 per cent of the costs undertaken by the private sector."

The forum has the political backing of the European Union. The need for action in the western Mediterranean has been underlined by the increasingly desperate attempts by young Moroccans to flee into southern Europe because of the economic problems bedeviling their own country.

"This summer there have been hundreds trying to cross



Holliday: well suited

When the P&O cruise liner Victoria docks at Gibraltar at the end of her Mediterranean summer cruise season later this month and her 714 passengers disembark, to be replaced by a further 714 setting off for the first of the ship's winter Caribbean cruises, it will be the first time for many years that Gibraltar has acted as a cruise line terminus. It is unlikely to be the last.

The Gibraltar Government has spent £600,000 converting a derelict warehouse on the western arm of the port into a state-of-the-art cruise terminal, with 1,400ft in quay space. There is provision to expand the building to cater for the extensive baggage handling, check-in facilities and security arrangements that will be required for large-scale flight-and-cruise operations.

Several American cruise line companies have expressed an interest in using the Rock as a terminus, says Tony Davis, the chief executive of the Gibraltar Tourism Board. He is setting off next week for the United States to discuss the possibilities further.

"Gibraltar is particularly well suited to be developed in this way," says Joe Holliday, the Minister of Tourism, who is also responsible for the development of the port. "It is only two-and-a-half hours' flying time from London, the air and sea ports are close to each other and there can be few places that offer such a choice of attractions to people wishing to spend a few days ashore before or after a cruise."

The promotion of Gibraltar's potential as a luxury cruise terminus is the latest stage in the Government's plan to upgrade Gibraltar's tourism profile after years as a garrison

## Tourism's future lies in cruise control

and dockyard facility. It is now beginning to reap the benefits of substantial investment.

The number of cruise ships calling at Gibraltar has risen from 99 last year to more than 140 this year, says George Gaggero, the chairman of the Gibraltar Shipping Association and deputy chairman of MH Bland, a shipping and tourism company. For next year, he says, there are already 165 visits booked by cruise liners.

Four main tourism sectors are now being specifically targeted by the Government: cruise liners, ocean-going yachting, and the short-break and conference markets. Niche markets such as diving and birdwatching are also being carefully cultivated.

More than six million people will have visited the Rock this year — up by a million since 1995. A big attraction for many of the day visitors from across the frontier is the VAT-free shopping but the Government is now promoting the Rock's potential in the UK and Spain as a short-break destination.

More than £5 million has been spent in a mixture of grants and soft loans, matched by the investment of private money, on refurbishing and modernising hotels and developing conference facilities. The Rock has 1,200 visitors' beds and occupancy rates are rising. Another £2.5 million is being spent on renovating and pedestrianising Main Street and the narrow lanes surrounding it.

"We have much to offer as a short-break conference centre," says James Gaggero, George Gaggero's cousin and deputy chairman of GB Airways, which is now a BA franchise. "This includes access to some of Europe's top golf courses within a 15-mile radius."



Montegriffo: role to play

the straits in pretty frail vessels," says Mr Montegriffo. "Many have lost their lives and most of those who land safely on the Spanish coast after the 24km voyage are simply put back on their boats and sent away."

Mr Montegriffo takes the view that Gibraltar can play a role in bolstering the economic development and therefore the stability of the region by acting primarily as a facilitator. "We are a small economy in the context of the region," he says, "but we can provide a banking centre, insurance services and administrative work, so I think we have a role to play in the region."

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**STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT**

In 1989 a Gibunco subsidiary undertook the physical supply of bunker fuels at the Port of Gibraltar when the total market volume stood at 250,000 MT. Today, companies forming part of the Gibunco Group, own and operate a fleet of bunker supply vessels, delivering over 1,500,000 MT of bunker fuels, over two thirds of the total Gibraltar market. To support this, Peninsula Petroleum Ltd., a Gibunco UK company, generates sales of over 300,000 MT of bunker fuels.

These investments have transformed commercial life in the Port of Gibraltar, now the largest bunkering port in the Mediterranean. The Group's shipping interests are further supported from its offices in London, Middle East and Spain.

**INVESTING IN ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Diversification has been the key to the success of the Gibunco Group. Its extensive marine activities have been augmented by on-shore projects, including joint ventures, under the Montagu Group, in land reclamation and property development in Gibraltar, building over 2000 apartments in the last decade.

The industrial, technological and social development of Gibraltar and the protection of its environment are of paramount concern to the Gibunco Group. A recent proposed and government-backed joint venture to upgrade importation, storage and distribution facilities for automotive, aviation and public utilities fuels demonstrates the Group's commitment in this vital area.

In the years ahead the Gibunco Group will continue to use its knowledge, experience and resources to create further business opportunities thereby adding to its success while enhancing the economic prospects of the region.

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# Advisers wary about US-style company rescues

By Rodney Hobson

PROSPECTS of a Chapter 11 procedure being introduced in the UK to help struggling companies to avoid going into liquidation have received a lukewarm reception.

Business experts feel that Chapter 11, a provision that allows US companies a moratorium from payment demands by creditors, is overrated and that the UK is already improving its methods of saving companies.

Proposals could be included in the Queen's Speech this month. Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, told the Commons Trade and Industry Committee that, when parliamentary time allowed, the Government would introduce legislation to allow a company to obtain a stay on creditor actions for up to three months.

Peter Copp, a partner in BDO Stoy Hayward, the business advisers, sums up the general view, saying: "Studies show that Chapter 11 does not work well. We don't seem to be good at showing people how well our own system works. We are quite successful at saving businesses. Chapter 11 gets a lot of publicity because of high-profile cases such as Braniff Airlines. A relatively small number of companies that go into Chapter 11 come out of it. It is more cumbersome and costly than our system."

Tony Houghton, of Kidsons Impey, one of the top ten UK chartered accountancy firms and a specialist in owner-managed businesses, says that only about 5 to 6 per cent of companies entering Chapter 11 subsequently recover.

Scott Barnes, head of corporate rescue for Grant Thornton, also cautions against holding up Chapter 11 as a shining example of how to rescue struggling companies. He says: "You find that many Chapter 11 cases do not work out and



Copp: no fan of Chapter 11

the company still slides into liquidation. There is far from general agreement that this is the best way.

"We have got procedures already with administration and company voluntary arrangements (CVAs) and these need tweaking rather than going in for a wholesale change that is potentially dangerous," Rupert Connell, of Hobson Audley Hopkins and Wood, the firm of solicitors, has had experience of Chapter 11 procedures representing an English company that was part of a US group. He says: "I don't think that Chapter 11 is as effective as it is cracked up to be over here. Chapter 11 is phenomenally expensive. You can't move without lawyers and court hearings. There is a court hearing for just about everything. In a

way it is better to have an informal arrangement.

"Banks are taking more interest in company voluntary arrangements and that is an encouraging trend. The banks are trying to work these things out with their customers. Even receivership can be expensive and, at the end of the day, the banks are going to be paying for it."

Mr Mandelson indicated in a speech to the British American Chamber of Commerce in New York last month that businessmen with previous failures should not be prevented from taking further risks.

Mr Houghton retorts: "This makes the assumption that it is the bankrupt who has been the risk-taker. In reality, it is the unpaid creditors who have been the risk-takers. As cash gets tighter, the business can only go on trading because suppliers allow longer and longer periods of credit. They have no real knowledge of the financial position of their customer and continue to supply on assurances and because they need the business."

Mr Barnes suggests that Mr Mandelson might be thinking of introducing a moratorium provision into the existing CVA arrangements. He says: "The problem with CVAs is not so much creditors diving in to take the assets, but that the company has simply run out of money. Where is the funding coming from to keep the company going during the moratorium? Who will be in charge? Often it will be the directors who got the company into trouble in the first place. This must not become a rogues' charter."

Mr Connell says that although company failures have started to increase, there are no signs of a return to the dramatic scale of collapses in the late 1980s and early 1990s. But he adds: "Banks are still exposed to the risk that any other creditor may undermine what is being achieved and force the banks to give up on a rescue."



Carole Nash, from a kitchen-table start, has built a 125-employee firm getting classic motorcycles such as her 1925 Triumph insured

# Redundancy leads to triumph for Queen of the Motorbikes

Customers call Carole Nash the Queen of the Motorbikes. This month, her motorcycle insurance intermediary business, Carole Nash Insurance Consultants, which claims to be the UK's largest, finally hit a £10 million annual turnover. It has 85,000 policyholders, employs 125 staff and is soon to open an Irish office.

Mrs Nash's employed career had been in motor insurance, her last job being with Sentry, the Manchester insurance company, running general motorcycle insurance alongside a vintage motorcycle scheme designed for the Vintage Motor Cycle Club. Finding herself jobless when Sentry shut its Manchester office, Mrs Nash asked it to let her take over the vintage scheme, which she says was "ticking over" with just 500 clients.

Starting out on her kitchen table in 1985, Mrs Nash had little more in the way of busi-

## A small firm has built big turnover by listening closely to its insurance clients' needs, Wendy Smith reports

ness assets than a telephone balanced on the window sill, an adding machine and an essential professional indemnity policy, bought for £1,200 with her redundancy money.

"Business started to mushroom quietly," she says. "Policyholders liked the fact that I wasn't working from a proper office environment and I was there to chat and listen to their needs about their beloved bikes."

Turnover in her first year of trading was £30,000. Four years on, she moved out of her kitchen and into her garage, with turnover up to £750,000.

Mrs Nash eventually gave up the domestic approach to her business and put it on a more orthodox footing in 1989,

opening her first office just outside Ayr in Scotland. Mrs Nash attributes success to her personal touch, her love of bikes, and her high profile in the predominantly male biking community. She has been appointed to offices in the Federation Internationale des Vehicules Anciens and the Vintage Motor Cycle Club and now owns a bike collection including a 1914 BSA Combination.

She believes that if she had been aggressive in her marketing policy, she would not have done so well. "People urged me to expand, but I felt it was all too rapid," she said. "I have always been cautious in my approach to the business."

That caution and the nature of her business have seen her

through ups and downs in the economy. Furthermore, motorcycle sales are reportedly soaring. Mrs Nash says bikers love their machines — old or new — and go to great lengths to keep them. When clients have faced hard times, she has had them pay in instalments. Although her son, Malcolm, is now technical director of the company, Mrs Nash went outside the company to bolster her boardroom — a move she describes as her biggest decision. For two years, Damian Keeling, formerly her accountant, has been managing director. This lets Mrs Nash, as chairman, focus on promoting the company and investigating opportunities in its fastest-growing area, modern bikes.

"I have applied the same philosophy to my modern bike policyholders as with the classic bikers," she says. "Listen to what the individual really wants and build a policy round their specific needs."

### BRIEFINGS

Cater Allen Bank has launched a euro-denominated account for small and medium-size businesses. It can be opened now and converted to euros on January 1. The minimum opening deposit is 10,000 euros, about £7,150. Details on 0800 716177.

Winners of the DTI-sponsored Export Awards for Smaller Businesses have put the secrets of their success on the www.export-awards.co.uk website. The website can be used to register for the entry form for next year's awards.

Business Link South Wiltshire is running an information and support campaign on the millennium computer bug. The first free meeting is at the Milford Hall Hotel, Salisbury, on November 27. Further meetings, all at 11am, are at Wilton, Amesbury and Downton. To reserve a place, contact Kathryn Furnell on 01722 411032.

De Montfort University, Leicester, is using professional recruiters to help students to find paid jobs during the Christmas and summer vacations. Small businesses looking for placements should contact Jonathan Benn, Opera Holdings, on 01242 265165.

An advanced certificate in employment law to help business owners to cope with new legislation on topics such as working hours, the minimum wage and data protection has been set up by the Institute of Personnel and Development and JSB Training and Consulting. Details: 0181-263 3434.

Traditional manufacturers have the opportunity to join a website called The English Channel where they can sell to lucrative markets such as the US and Japan. The set-up cost varies according to the service required, but starts at about £960. Contact Rachel Wall on 01531 637100.

A service to help solicitors' firms to examine their financial performance and improve profitability has been introduced by the UK 200 Group of Chartered Accountants. The group's new financial control reviews reflect Law Society concern about smaller practices' profitability. Inquiries: 01252 333511.

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# American Norwegian All Black stakes his claim



Noel Whelan, left, scores for Coventry against Everton on Sunday. Whelan features in both the leading Fantasy team (These Eat Beans) and this week's winners

On the lookout for a goalkeeper at a reasonable price? Fancy avoiding the obvious big-time internationals like Schmeichel, Seaman and Bosnich? Well, in our time-honoured tradition of throwing a little-known name at you, may we recommend one Espen Baardsen?

Admittedly, Baardsen is hardly in the unknown category, and anyone who has seen his recent performances for Tottenham Hotspur will certainly have noted his qualities, but it is worth drawing attention to a player who has emerged from the shadow of an England player at a big North London club — and, unlike Alex Manninger, his counterpart at Arsenal, must have a good chance of remaining first-choice.

Like many Tottenham players, Ian Walker, the England international goalkeeper, appeared to suffer from a shortfall in confidence as they struggled to avoid relegation last season, and made a poor start to this

campaign. Baardsen, born in the United States, but who earned a place in the Norway World Cup squad in France, although he did not play, was a ready-made replacement and has impressed as George Graham has improved the Spurs defence. In Saturday's match at

Highbury, Baardsen helped keep the Gunners at bay with a series of excellent saves. Not that he is yet the finished product — remember his clearance was charged down by Michael Owen for Liverpool's consolation goal in Tottenham's 3-1 Worthington Cup win at Anfield last week.

"An excellent shot-stopper," George Graham, the Spurs manager, said, but added: "He's got a little bit of learning to do yet. He's got to command his area a bit more."

Even so, Graham has been sufficiently impressed by Baardsen to offer him an improved five-year contract. Not bad for a player acquired on a free transfer from San Francisco All Blacks.

The implications for Baardsen as a potential member of your Fantasy League team are obvious. Graham built his great Arsenal team on solid defence, and has stated his intention of doing the same at White Hart Lane. If Baardsen remains first-choice goalkeeper, he is likely to be playing behind an increasingly impregnable back four, with clean sheets the norm rather than the exception.

One-tilt to the Tottenham, once the unlikely of scores, may become a regular chant in N17 — and three Fantasy League points to Espen Baardsen.

Hotline: 01582 702720.



Baardsen: fine show against Arsenal

Nigel Winterburn: top full back with 18 points

Gareth Southgate: good pairing with Ehioغو

Paul Scholes: now second best midfielder

Marcus Gayle: one of five 20-point strikers

## HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

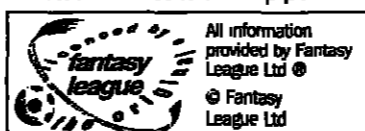
Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

**TO ENTER BY POST** Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make

sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or ROI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

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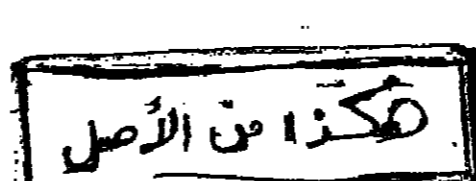
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# Dion on course to top scorers' list

This week's winning team scoops £500 without the leading points scorer of the past seven days. Nick Szczepanik reports

We managed to avoid him last week, after his two-goal debut for Aston Villa, but there is no getting around Dion Dublin this week. A hat-trick at The Dell, giving him a total of five goals in two games, puts him firmly in line for the title of inspired signing of the week, the month, and, by the end of the campaign, quite possibly the season too. No pressure, then.

Those who recall Dublin in his early days under the management of John Beck at Cambridge United, where his head was usually the target for an array of corner kicks, long throw-ins and set pieces, must be mildly bemused to see him in a team leading the FA Carling Premiership.

Alex Ferguson noticed his progress at The Abbey Stadium and took him into the top division for the first time at the beginning of the 1997-98 season. His career at Manchester United stalled after an early broken leg, but he was sold on to Coventry City for £2 million, double the fee Cambridge received.

At Highfield Road, he came under the influence of Gordon Strachan, who has always preached the wisdom of improving players already on the staff rather than splashing out on big-money signings, and his game improved as a result. Now, he is a more complete player, able to deal confidently with the ball on the ground, stroke penalties confidently home, and play in central defence when called upon. Now nobody will be surprised to see him start tomorrow's England game against the Czech Republic.

The nine points earned by his hat-trick make him the Fantasy League top scorer over the past seven days, and bring his season's total to 25. All the more surprising, then, that the winner of this week's £500 prize did not include him in her selection.

Teresa Creton, a district nursing sister who works in Stroud, Gloucestershire, managed to accrue 34 points without any help from big Dion. The main contributor to her team, TC Tornadoes, was the only player with a higher overall total than Dublin, the man he replaced at Villa Park, Dwight Yorke. Yorke scored seven points in Manchester United's 3-2 victory over Blackburn Rovers, scoring one goal and earning assists on both the goals scored by Paul Scholes.

Mrs Creton, under the influence of an older brother, grew up as a Manchester United supporter, and so has two of their current squad to thank for her prize of £500 and £100 worth of sports equipment.

"I'm lucky I've got them," Mrs



Creton said. "I hadn't done terribly well up to now." Elsewhere, the team scored steadily. Scholes's brace earned six points, but seven players scored three: significantly, Noel Whelan, pushed forward by Coventry City to fill the gap left by Dublin's departure, scored his team's third goal against Everton on Sunday. It is also worth noting that four of the TC Tornadoes' three-point

WEEKLY WINNER table listing players and points: David Seaman (ARS) 3, Celestine Babayaro (CHE) 3, Stefan Schuster (DER) 0, Sol Campbell (TOT) 3, Lucas Radebe (LEI) 0, Paul Scholes (MAN) 6, Noel Whelan (COV) 3, Frank Lampard (WES) 3, Paul Merson (MID) 3, Dwight Yorke (AST) 7, Clive Mendonca (CHA) 3. Total: 34 points.

men, Celestine Babayaro, Sol Campbell, Paul Merson and Clive Mendonca (whose penalty goal for Charlton against Middlesbrough ended a long scoring drought), were brought in together in an assault on the transfer market in early October, for which Mrs Creton gives some credit (but not all) to her eldest son, Andrew. "Some of it was mine and some of it was my son's," she said.

According to Kevin, Mrs Creton's husband, their Tottenham-supporting son acts as a sort of club secretary for the family's Fantasy League entries.

"Andrew is the football fan who helps everyone pick the team. He does the paperwork and gives the nod of approval," Mr Creton said, while Mrs Creton also makes sure to read these pages. "We see what everyone else is doing and get the current form," she said.

## FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Another one for the mantelpiece: Dion Dublin walks off at The Dell with the match-ball after his first hat-trick for Aston Villa. It could have been his second but for a linesman's flag a week earlier. At his present scoring rate, he will end the season with 80 goals — plus three for Coventry

## FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

Table listing top 100 Fantasy League players and their points. Top players include Robert Anderson (142), Adam Harding (132), Chris Hill (132), David McCutcheon (128), Jack Thordike (127), Jonathan Westwood (126), Darren Veal (124), Jonathan Sarradell (123), John Eisor (123), and Andy's Hammer 11 (123).

Plus 14 others on 126 points.

## QUIZ

Quiz section with four questions about last week's players and this week's quartet. Questions include: 'Last week's four players were all chosen for their city connections — Dion Dublin, Justin Edinburgh and Sean Dundee.' and 'Here are this week's quartet. What do they have in common? Answer on this page next week.'

PRIZES section listing various prizes including £500,000 for the manager of the Fantasy League team with the most points, £1,000 youth prize, and Puma sports equipment.

FANTASY LEAGUE FAXBACK SERVICE section providing details on how to receive a comprehensive breakdown of team performance via fax.

## As I was saying...

Making out your Christmas list? Put me down for some Roud gear. I'm sorry, I'm not in the habit of going into that sort of establishment. No, I mean Roud as in Gullit. He has his own designer label. Very big in Newcastle these days, I believe. Oh yes — they used to sell it in the Chelsea club shop, didn't they? Expensive, though. Tell you what, I might be able to afford some Newcastle socks. They'll be flogging the old black ones off cheap now, I expect. Why is that? Didn't you notice the Sheffield Wednesday game on Match Of The Day? They've started wearing white socks. Gullit once said that he's always won things with teams that wear white socks, which is part of the reason he agreed to join Chelsea. And the big wages. And the big wages. But I'll bet that's why Shearer and company are sporting white socks nowadays. Plus all the Geordie kids can ask for them for Christmas. Anyway, I wasn't making out a Christmas present list. I was checking the December fixture list. And what did you find? That there are some very big games coming up, and Villa seem to



be playing in all of them. That's right. They play Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal in just eight days. The problem is, do I back them to do well in those games, and try to transfer in a couple of their key men, or steer clear, on the basis that they can't win all three? I see the difficulty. Because Dublin and Merson are still listed with their original clubs, you could have three current Villa players in your side, couldn't you? And it increases your chance of winning a weekly prize if they do well in the Chelsea and Arsenal games, which fall in the same week. Actually, the same is true of Chelsea players, who play at Derby the Saturday after their home game with Villa. That was the one postponed because of rain the other week, if you remember. So what is your gut feeling? Well, the extra game certainly increases the opportunity to score points — but these important games between rivals are often tight affairs with few goals. So a Villa defender, like Ehiogu, might be worth transferring in. What about some forwards? Dublin is hot at the moment, but Dwight Yorke will be keen to score against his old club at Villa Park on December 5. Yes, but you can't have Yorke in the same team as Ehiogu, because Yorke counts as a Villa player and you can't have two in the same team. But you ought to think about Dublin. He took penalties for Coventry, too. Might he do the same for Villa? Good point. But a goalscorer Chelsea midfielder like Poyet could be a better signing. Decisions, decisions. Almost as difficult as that Christmas list. No, that's easy. You're definitely getting the socks.

## Hints on selecting your midfield of dreams

OPINIONS differ among The Times Fantasy League managers regarding the importance of the midfield. The majority of managers pick a couple of stars in the centre of the park, but are forced to choose two less well-known names to make up the numbers due to the budget. Although the lesser-known players may perform in the short term, the cream of Fantasy League midfielders does always appear to rise to the top. It is now that we see possibly the two biggest names head the midfield standings. David Beckham's crossing ability and talent in dead-ball situations will always ensure that the United man is good for fifty points in an injury-free season. Matt Le Tissier also has a phenomenal record in Fantasy League, peaking with 95 points in 1993-94. He is central to all Southampton's attacks, and it is unusual for a Saints goal not to involve the Channel Islander. With midfielders, it is obviously an advantage when they play slightly further forward. For example, there has been increased demand for entering the Whelan Wonderland. With Dion Dublin off to pastures new, Noel Whelan has been pushed into a striking role and has not let his backers down. Gustavo Poyet is widely considered to be the best header of the ball in the Premiership and it is in this department that he generates most of his points. In his first season on these shores, Poyet surged to 20 points in just eight games before he was ruled out for the majority of the season with a serious injury, and has started this campaign in a similar fashion. Paul Scholes always looks to get forward from his midfield role to link with the main striking duo, and Aston Villa's new boy Paul Merson is a player of a somewhat similar ilk. Assists often go unnoticed, but this is where the likes of Darren Anderson and David Ginola accumulate a vast majority of their points. Ginola is always capable of a defence-splitting pass or pinpoint cross. Incidentally, Anderson holds the all-time Fantasy League assists record — 19 in 1994-95. On the other end of the scale, it is just a case of hoping that your cheaper midfielders simply chip in here and there. Although Garry Hiltcock has started this season impressively with two goals and three assists, the 4,000 managers who have recently purchased him should be aware of his form in the previous two seasons — played 42, zero points! West Ham's inspirational midfielder Frank Lampard is destined for a future with the England set-up and although he will not break the bank, 25 points is certainly on the cards for such a talented young man.

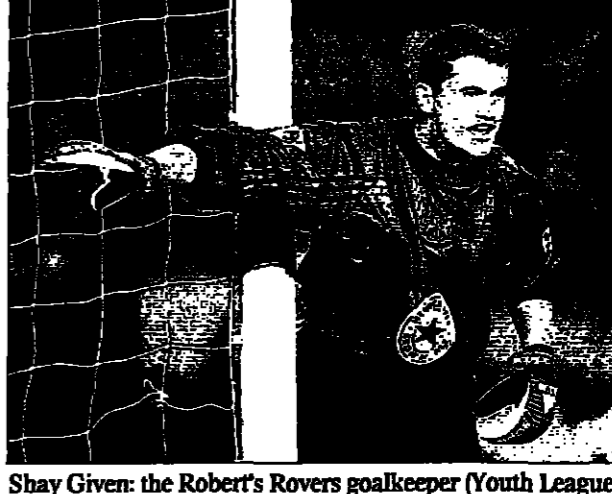
MIDFIELD BOYS table listing most popular midfield buys: G Fitzpatrick (BLA) 4,293, P Shearer (MID) 2,376, D Beckham (MAN) 1,309, P Berger (LIV) 1,043, G Poyet (CHE) 832, S Stokes (NOT) 738, N Whelan (COV) 710, D Ginola (TOT) 675, A Nielsen (TOT) 514, F Lampard (WES) 446.

## CHECK YOUR SCORES

TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

## YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

Table listing top 10 of the under-18s: Robert Anderson (142), Adam Harding (132), Chris Hill (132), David McCutcheon (128), Jack Thordike (127), Jonathan Westwood (126), Darren Veal (124), Jonathan Sarradell (123), John Eisor (123), and Andy's Hammer 11 (123).



Shay Given: the Robert's Rovers goalkeeper (Youth League)

## TRANSFER LINE

Want to make one of your 12 transfers? Call 0640 62 51 03 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4293). 0640 calls cost 60p per minute. Ex-UK calls charged at national rates.

NEWS

'Don't expel drug takers'

Children who experiment with drugs should not be expelled from school automatically, teachers will be told in the new Government guidelines.

Stability is sexy, says Blair

Financiers were told by Tony Blair that stability was a "sexy thing" to hammer home the message that the Government had created the conditions to help business weather a difficult year ahead.

Breeches dropped

The Lord Chancellor won the right to wear black trousers and drop his ceremonial dress of breeches, tights and buckled shoes.

Animal tests ban

British cosmetic companies will have to move their animal tests abroad in response to a ban announced by the Government.

Top earner

The drugs czar, Keith Hellawell, tops the pay league for Tony Blair's 70-strong team of political aides and special advisers.

Brain damage award

A teenage girl who suffered severe brain damage after surgery to remove a birthmark when she was five was awarded £3.9 million.

Aid for farmers

Emergency aid of 120 million was announced by the Government to help Britain's farmers come through the worst crisis in agriculture since the 1930s.

Tyneside opera

Gateshead is to add a touch of Sydney to Tyneside with a £60 million riverside music centre that recalls the shape of the Opera House.

Neighbourhood row

A vital question of lifestyle has created a neighbourhood dispute between the super-rich and the merely wealthy.

Single parent skills

Single parents are just as capable as bringing up children successfully as traditional families.

Botched operations

Ministers were urged to order a public inquiry into the career of a surgeon who may have maimed 180 patients.

Hurricane case

The families of West Indian crew members who drowned when the tall ship Fantome sank during hurricane Mitch off the coast of Honduras last month are to sue the vessel's owners.

Work permit loophole

Manchester United, Britain's wealthiest football club, finalised a move to exploit a loophole in European employment law to help it bring in stars from South America and Africa.

End of terror

Monika Haas was jailed for five years for her part in an aircraft hijacking - a sentencing that marked Germany's final reckoning with its terrorist past.

Taj Mahal may be closed for ever

The Taj Mahal, battered by people, sandstorms and pollution, may be permanently closed. It is suffering the ravages of 10 million pairs of feet trudging across its marble floors every year.



Four hundred soldiers began leaving Northern Ireland yesterday bringing troop levels there to the lowest since 1970

BUSINESS

Nerves of steel: British Steel gave warning it was likely to plunge into the red this year and said that it expected to make thousands of employees redundant over the next two years.

SPORT

Football: Ian Wright, who is enjoying a new lease of life at 35, and Dion Dublin, a "youngster" of 29, are expected to start in attack for England against the Czech Republic.

ARTS

Home fronts: After tomorrow's royal opening, the Geffrye Museum in East London will have a dazzling new space in which to chronicle our domestic lives.

FEATURES

Old and new: Placing a children's nursery in an old people's home is raising spirits and may be prolonging life.

BUSINESS

Formula for trouble: Bernie Ecclestone, the entrepreneur behind Formula One, is heading for a battle with the EC over legal moves aimed at helping his companies to raise \$2 billion.

SPORT

Cricket: England gained an exciting one-wicket win over Queensland but the gloss was taken off it by an assault on John Crawley by a street drunk.

ARTS

Rebel cause: Manchester celebrated the 72-year-old composer Hans Werner Henze with a five-day festival tracing his journey from revolutionary to sophisticated.

FEATURES

Rock solid: Gibraltar is making a determined push for full self-government and striving to become a lucrative business hub.

BUSINESS

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 47.3 to 5510.5. The pound rose 97 cents to \$1.6755 and fell 2.16 pence to DM2.7924.

SPORT

Rugby union: Wales, their pulses still racing after the dramatic encounter with South Africa, predictably chose an unchanged XV for the Argentine game.

ARTS

Dramatic interludes: Catherine Johnson's glam rock nostalgia play, Shang-a-Lang, fun on a double-decker bus in Surface Noise.

FEATURES

Changing attitudes: "There has been a dramatic change in attitudes. People are not now so cynical; they do find inequality unacceptable."



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE Computers and the British: a new survey shows how they use them

HOMES What is your home worth? How homes in a London street have risen in value

FOCUS

Rock solid: Gibraltar is making a determined push for full self-government and striving to become a lucrative business hub.

LAW

Changing attitudes: "There has been a dramatic change in attitudes. People are not now so cynical; they do find inequality unacceptable."

THE PAPERS

By our count this is the eighth "confrontation" between Saddam Hussein's regime and the United States (with Britain and a few other Western powers in tow) since the Iraqi dictator's forces were expelled from Kuwait in 1991.

OBITUARIES

Edwige Feuillère, French actress; Stokely Carmichael, American black activist; Laurence Gandar, South African editor.

LETTERS

Lords and closed lists; Bishops expenses; flooding in Venice; Iraq's pain; grammar schools; hunting ban; theatre revenues; rewarding rabbis.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,951

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting positions for clues.

ACROSS clues: 1 Ironclad American achieves re-nouveau (4); 3 Is it easy to lie through them? (5,5); 9 Heart of Holy Land? (4); 10 Seal ordered by officer in charge of extending sections (10); 12 Redirected ICBM to USA - nuclear, perhaps (9); 13 Name a girl got for being nosy? (5); 14 Official fabric in a layer (8,4); 18 Short term in May or June, say, but not July or August (12); 21 Angry with a couple of males (3,2); 22 One-time decay of investment company (4,5); 24 Fake confronted about ecstasy is chastened (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,950. DEAD TO THE WORLD... FORECOURT HINGE... NAVY COURTESY... SALACIOUS BIRDIE... REPINE LIBERATION... TREBUCHET SUAVE... OMAHA DERRINGDO... ELDER STATESMAN

ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Weather and road conditions section including latest road and weather conditions, weather by fax, and world city weather.

FORECAST

Forecast section with general weather conditions, around Britain yesterday, and abroad weather reports.

NOON TODAY

Weather map showing high and low pressure systems, fronts, and wind directions.

HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various locations including Aberdeen, Liverpool, London, and others.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations like London, Edinburgh, and Penzance.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Advertisement for Swissair featuring a logo and the slogan 'How to catch our 6.30 a.m. flight from Heathrow?'.

ARROABD

Table of weather conditions for various international cities like Algeiras, Cologne, Madrid, and others.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 17 NOVEMBER 1998. Total number of lives saved so far this year: 823. Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 4,632.

Large vertical advertisement for British S... Ecclesto... aims to... thwart... by buyi... Fl right... You've never had...

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ECONOMY Rosemary Righter says Emu could be stranded by red tide PAGE 33



ARTS Whatever became of the Bay City Rollerettes? PAGES 38-40



LAW What next for Kamlesh Bahl of the EOC? PAGES 41-47

ENGLAND FEEL BETTER FOR NARROW WIN Sport Pages 49-56

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17 1998

British Steel cuts more jobs as market worsens



Mofat: gloomy outlook

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH STEEL is to make thousands of workers redundant as it accelerates a massive job cuts programme. The beleaguered company could also close all its plants over Christmas because of falling orders. Some of the job losses, which are expected to total more than 12,000 by the turn of the century, could be compulsory. In the next six months it will cut 1,600, after making 1,400 people redundant in the past six months. The cuts will affect middle management as well as blue-collar workers. British Steel is battling against plunging prices and the strength of

the pound. It has given warning that it could fall into the red this year if action is not taken against what it sees as steel dumping in Europe. The company is backing an appeal by Eurofer, the European steel trade association, to the European Commission about alleged anti-competitive behaviour by steel producers from the Far East, Brazil and South Africa. Prices have fallen by 10-15 per cent over the past few weeks as cheap steel hits Western markets. Sir Brian Mofat, chairman and chief executive, described the fall in prices as the worst he had seen in his career. Sir Brian said that manufacturing was firmly in recession and dismissed Government claims that the

economy was experiencing a temporary blip. He said: "The UK is in recession... in most of manufacturing industry it has been in recession for most of this year." He described the Chancellor's predictions on gross domestic product as over optimistic and said he expected economic conditions to worsen. Sir Brian said British Steel's problems were nothing to do with productivity - a charge made against ailing firms by the Government. He said the company ranked alongside the world's best. City analysts largely agree and say the management of the company is not at fault. Ken Jackson, General Secretary of the AEEU, said the job cuts highlight

ed the fragile state of the economy. He said: "The recent 0.5 per cent rate cut was welcome, but the problems at British Steel demonstrate the case for further cuts." British Steel could halt production at all of its plants for several weeks over Christmas if it does not get enough orders. It will join some car-makers in suspending production because there is not enough work. Sir Brian said a decision would be made within a month but a closure is thought more likely than not. While not unprecedented, plant closure at the company is rare. British Steel has put the screws on its suppliers, demanding price cuts of up to 20 per cent. In some of its opera-

tions about half of the suppliers have ceased business with British Steel, squeezed by the falling prices. Sir Brian said that he expected further difficulties at Avesta Sheffield, the Anglo-Swedish stainless steel operation in which British Steel has a 51 per cent stake. Recently the business delivered an interim £35 million loss. That could escalate to £100 million in the full-year. Half-year pre-tax profits at British Steel fell to £108 million from £143 million in the same period last year. Earnings per share fell to 3.99p from 4.75p. The interim dividend was maintained at 3p.

Commentary, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and STERLING.

Ecclestone aims to thwart EU by buying F1 rights

By JASON NISSÉ

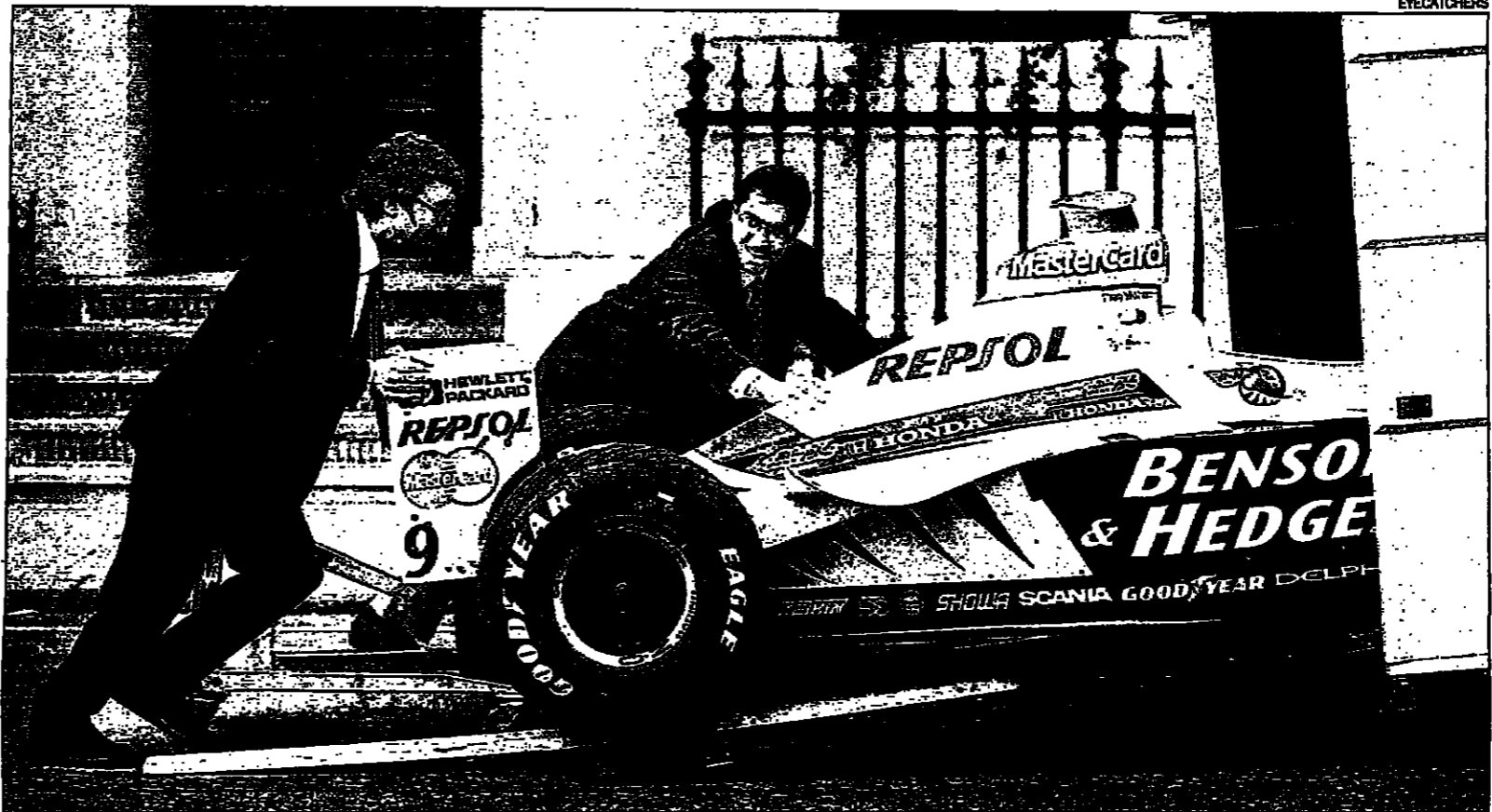
BERNIE ECCLESTONE, the entrepreneur behind Formula One motor racing, has been given the exclusive rights to exploit almost all the commercial aspects of the sport in a move aimed at avoiding sanctions expected to be brought by the European Commission. The arrangement, revealed in the pathfinder prospectus for a \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) bond issue planned by Mr Ecclestone's Formula One Group, makes the media rights to the sport the "property" of Formula One.

This is set out in an "Acknowledgement Agreement" that will be provided by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the sport's ruling body, before the final prospectus is issued. This agreement means the FIA has handed over to Formula One all the intellectual property rights for one of the most lucrative sports in the world. The deal allows for the FIA to buy back its rights for an agreed sum in the year 2020. The draft prospectus, given to more than 200 potential investors who attended a presentation in London yesterday, goes on to argue that this new arrangement means that the business dealings between Formula One and the FIA are safe from being altered by Brussels. Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, launched an investigation in the middle of last year into the contracts that link Formula One, the FIA, the teams that race in the sport and the media companies that televise it. The investigation was enough to persuade Mr Ecclestone to postpone a planned \$1.5 billion flotation of Formula One and has cast a pall over the \$2 billion euro-bond that it was forced to announce two months ago. Ac-

ording to a BBC Panorama programme, shown last night, Mr Van Miert's office is understood to have been angered by comments made by Mr Ecclestone and his advisers indicating that there would be no sanctions brought against Formula One as a result of the investigation. It is believed that Mr Van Miert's office is preparing an intervention notice against Formula One and the FIA that could make them amend their business arrangements. But all his office would say yesterday was that it will make a ruling next year.

The prospectus refers to Article 222 of the Treaty of Rome: "The treaty shall in no way prejudice the rules in member states governing the system of property ownership." It is understood that Mr Ecclestone is relying on this to stop Mr Van Miert from interfering with the commercial exploitation of Formula One's "property" - ie, the media rights to the sport. Article 222 is referred to in a report by Duff & Phelps, the credit rating agency, which said this means that the "fundamental rights" of Formula One "are not considered to be substantially at risk". However, Mr Van Miert's office yesterday said Article 222 was irrelevant to the EC's powers to intervene if it found that Formula One was acting in an anti-competitive way. The prospectus shows how important Formula One's control of the media rights are. The company has media contracts worth \$341 million this year, \$407 million next year and \$424 million in 2000. Although it has to give 47 per cent of this revenue to the racing teams, the company made a pre-tax profit of £81.1 million in the first eight months of this year.

Commentary, page 31



The deal between Eddie Jordan, left, and Warburg, Pincus, whose managing director Dominic Shorthouse, is pictured right, values Mr Jordan's stake at \$90m

By JASON NISSÉ

EDDIE JORDAN, the Irish motor racing entrepreneur, yesterday saw his stake in the Jordan Formula One team valued at \$90 million (£54 million) after a deal with Warburg, Pincus, the venture capital firm. Warburg is investing \$60 million and will take a 40 per cent stake in Jordan, which

Jordan has right formula to advance his business

boasts Damon Hill, the former world champion, as its lead driver, leaving its founder with the remainder. Dominic Shorthouse, War-

burg's managing director, will join the Jordan board but Eddie Jordan will run the team. The move comes at a time when many of the owners of

Formula One teams and racing circuits are paying more attention to the potential value of their assets. Yesterday the British Racing Drivers'

Club (BRDC) confirmed it had received an approach to buy the Silverstone circuit. John Lewis, a member of the club, has joined with HSBC Private Equity to make a £41 million offer. This would bring a windfall of £50,000 each for the BRDC's 800 members. However, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, its financial adviser, believes the circuit could be worth £70 million.

Carphone Warehouse offers retailing on Net

By CHRIS AYRES

THE Carphone Warehouse will on Thursday become the latest big high street name to launch an Internet retail service, which it believes could generate more than £1 million worth of sales within the next 12 months. The private company, which is the UK's largest independent retailer of mobile phones, has spent £500,000 designing and building the site. Advertising for the service will be funded out of the company's £10 million marketing budget. The Carphone Warehouse is also in discussions with British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), the company which plans to launch a home shopping service via digital television next year. BIB's shareholders include British Telecom, Midland Bank, Matsushita and BSkyB, the satellite

broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times. Part of The Carphone Warehouse's Internet site asks potential customers to answer detailed questions about how often they would use a phone, at



Dunstone: 1,500 registrations

what time of day, and how much they would be prepared to spend per month. The site then advises them as to which package best suits their needs. The launch of the site follows similar Internet retail ventures by Tesco, the supermarket group, HMV, the music retailer, and the food-to-clothes giant Marks & Spencer. Dixon's, the electronics retailer, also offers customers an Internet service. Charles Dunstone, the managing director and founder of The Carphone Warehouse, yesterday said that in trials over the weekend more than 1,500 potential customers had registered with the company's Internet site. He said: "I hope that if you know nothing about mobile phones, the site will help you to a purchase."

Gubbay out of £10m Tring deal

By CHRIS AYRES

RAYMOND GUBBAY, the impresario, yesterday staged a dramatic disappearing act from the £10 million deal to turn Tring International, the deeply troubled music and video group, into a music promotion company. One source close to the deal - which also involved Harvey Goldsmith, the rock music promoter - refused to give details on why the deal broke down. But he said: "It would look trivial in the written word." Tring will now continue to work on a reverse takeover deal with Mr Goldsmith. It is thought that Mr Gubbay had become frustrated with the amount of time it was taking to complete the deal, which included the issue of new shares, and the involvement of the investor Paul Levinson. Mr Levinson, a significant shareholder in both Tring and

Mr Goldsmith's private company, played a key role in the deal in spite of living abroad. It is almost five months since the idea for the original deal was first mooted, and insiders said there were disagreements about the group's future strategy, and how to match the interests of three strong-minded personalities. However, sources close to Tring last night stressed that there had been no personal conflict between Mr Gubbay, an urbane classic music enthusiast, and Mr Goldsmith, who has a reputation for enjoying a heady rock 'n' roll lifestyle. No one involved in the deal agreed to comment. Yesterday Tring issued a statement to the Stock Exchange, saying that "a number of key aspects of the transaction could not be agreed". Shares in Tring are suspended at 64p.

Japanese tonic fails to excite markets

By ROBERT WHYMAN AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Japanese Government yesterday unveiled a huge ¥24 trillion (£119 billion) fiscal stimulus package in a last-ditch attempt to revive the country's moribund economy. The bigger than expected package was, however, greeted apathetically in the markets, and economists predicting that it would, at best, simply prevent further deterioration in Japan's economy. The latest stimulus measures - the biggest package of its kind - seeks to raise Japan's gross domestic product by 2.3 per cent in real terms over the next three years. Toshiaki Sakaiya, Economic Planning Agency Minister, predicted that it would restore the economy to growth after two years of recession. Analysts, however, doubted this and expressed disappointment that the Government had chosen again to concentrate on boosting public spending, rather than tax cuts. The spending portion of the package includes ¥8.1 trillion for social infrastructure and public works, and ¥5.9 trillion to be provided for cheap loans to companies to try to ease Japan's credit crunch. A further ¥6 trillion will be provided to cut top-rate income tax and corporation tax. However, there is no cut in sales tax, contrary to market hopes. Tokyo's Nikkei index made modest gains to end up 160.06, 4.428.27. The yen was little changed against the dollar.

Commentary, page 31

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage with text: 'You've never had it so good... since 1959, in fact, with this week's 5 year capped rate of just 5.99% (6.2% APR)'. Includes phone number 0800 71 81 91.

# Bank sees no need for hedge fund regulation

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

TIGHTER regulation of hedge funds is likely to prove self-defeating and cannot be justified in terms of investor protection, a Bank of England report claims today.

The Bank's autumn Financial Stability Review, however, calls on banks with hedge fund investments to consider their own risk procedures. It gives warning that there may be a growing tension between the expectation that banks have low-risk liabilities and the reality of a growing tendency to diversify into more risky investments.

Regulators in both Britain and the US have been under increasing pressure to review the regulation of hedge funds — high-risk investment funds — following the \$3.6 billion (£2.1 billion) bailout of Long Term Capital Management.

The Financial Stability Review, which is published today, also argues against any direct tightening of regulation for hedge funds.

The review claims that the basic purpose of regulation "is to protect investors from excessive risk taking and loss".

This principle, however, does not apply to hedge funds that attract investors precisely because they have taken a high-risk strategy outside the regulated sector.

The experience of the LTCM rescue package has also raised the question as to whether the markets themselves need protecting from hedge funds. The review, however, claims that the hedge funds are not the only large players in the market and "it is not clear why they, uniquely among investors, should be singled out".

Increased regulation is also likely to prove self-defeating because it would drive many funds even further offshore, the Bank says.

The review does, however, conclude that banks should consider their monitoring of hedge fund investments and, in particular, check the adequacy of risk management procedures and levels of collateral provided to cover investments.

It recognises that the growing pressure on financial services companies to diversify into more risky assets could create regulatory problems in the future because large banks are traditionally perceived as having low-risk liabilities.



Edgar Bronfman Jr, left, and Frank Biondi Jr, pictured at the time of Seagram's purchase of Universal Studios

## Tobacco shares lifted as Clinton backs settlement

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BILL CLINTON yesterday threw his weight behind the \$206 billion (£125 billion) tobacco settlement, pushing BAT shares up 14 1/2 to 53 1/2 yesterday, close to an all-time high. President Clinton urged Congress to approve the deal, which will space out payments to the Government over 25 years.

A previous, more comprehensive \$368.5 billion settlement, had been rejected by Congress last year.

Staking the White House's claim to part of the credit for the deal, a spokesman said: "The state settlement is an im-

portant step forward in the fight to reduce teen smoking. The President will ask Congress to help him finish the job."

Mr Clinton, who has been campaigning for tobacco legislation, was not directly involved in negotiating the settlement that was hammered out by eight attorneys-general.

While welcoming the settlement, the White House said Mr Clinton would continue to push for national tobacco legislation.

The spokesman said: "He will highlight much of the unfinished work. Next year he

will make a legislative priority of finishing the job with Congress."

The President is also expected to ask the Supreme Court to decide whether the federal Food and Drug Administration has the authority to regulate tobacco.

The settlement has delighted Wall Street. America's big tobacco companies have been the toast of investors in the past few days. Philip Morris set a record high yesterday.

Analysts believe that the biggest legal threat over the health risks from smoking has now been eliminated.

## Head of Universal forced out

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FRANK BIONDI Jr, the head of Universal Studios, yesterday resigned under pressure as Seagram, the studio's parent company, launched its long-awaited restructuring.

Edgar Bronfman Jr, the chief executive of Seagram, will take a more hands-on role in the running of the Hollywood crown jewel that has suffered since he acquired it in a 1995 move to turn Seagram from a drinks business into an entertainment giant.

Universal has been struggling at the box office. Its new release, the Brad Pitt film, *Meet Joe Black*, is the latest in a string of cinematic disappointments.

The restructuring is aimed at integrating PolyGram, acquired from Philips for \$10.4 billion (£6.2 billion), with Universal to form the world's biggest music company.

Mr Bronfman is reorganising Seagram into three areas that will report directly to him: beverages; music and film; theme parks and international television.

Mr Biondi, 53, had more than two years left to run on a five-year contract thought to be worth \$76 million.

Commentary, page 31

## Proposals to assist credit unions

THE credit union movement received a boost from proposals announced yesterday by Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Henrietta Lake writes).

Speaking at the conclusion of a Joseph Rowntree Foundation study into community finance, Ms Hewitt announced the publication of a consulta-

tion document to reform existing legislation constraining the growth of credit unions.

Set up to provide financial services for disadvantaged communities, there are more than 600 credit unions with assets exceeding £100 million.

The measures will make the "common bond" qualifying rules for members more flexi-

ble, extend the two- to five-year repayment periods for loans, allow unions to borrow from sources other than banks and permit them to offer interest bearing share accounts.

Ms Hewitt also announced proposals for the future regulation of credit unions, bringing them within the scope of the Financial Services Authority.

Peter Gormley, a director of the National Federation of Credit Unions, said: "We welcome any proposals which make credit unions more flexible. Changes to the highly restrictive Credit Unions Act of 1979 are long overdue." Consultation ends on February 12.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Sells
Australia \$	2.71	1.54
Austria Sch	20.66	13.00
Belgium Fr	60.90	55.94
Canada \$	2.19	2.53
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8696	0.7981
Denmark Kr	13.21	10.32
Egypt	5.92	5.30
Finland Mkr	9.04	8.29
France Fr	9.54	9.06
Germany DM	2.5958	2.7145
Greece Dr	493	457
Hong Kong \$	13.81	12.81
Iceland	1.29	1.09
Indonesia	16494	11484
Ireland P	1.1753	1.0673
Israel Sh	7.90	9.64
Italy Lira	2940	2703
Japan Yen	215.02	198.00
Netherlands Gld	3.242	3.047
New Zealand \$	3.25	3.01
Norway Kr	13.07	12.13
Portugal Esc	209.02	276.99
S Africa Rd	10.15	9.19
Spain Ptas	248.08	230.29
Sweden Kr	14.32	13.22
Switzerland Fr	2.452	2.234
Turkey Lira	50821	47434
USA \$	1.783	1.640

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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## You only do business in the UK, so why bother opening a 'euro account'?

A POSSIBLE SCENARIO

It's lunch time, you are enjoying a 'post meeting' sandwich with a client when she says something that nearly makes you choke. From January 1st, her parent company (based in Lyon, France) has decided that from now on they will trade only in euro. As a result, they are asking all their suppliers across Europe, including you, to invoice in euro.

To open a Midland euro account or for more information, including a free 'euro checklist', call the number below or contact your local Midland Branch.

**Midland Bank**  
Member HSBC Group  
www.midlandbank.com/business/euro

Call: 0345 40 41 42

Mike Mike

## Not a lot of computers know that

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

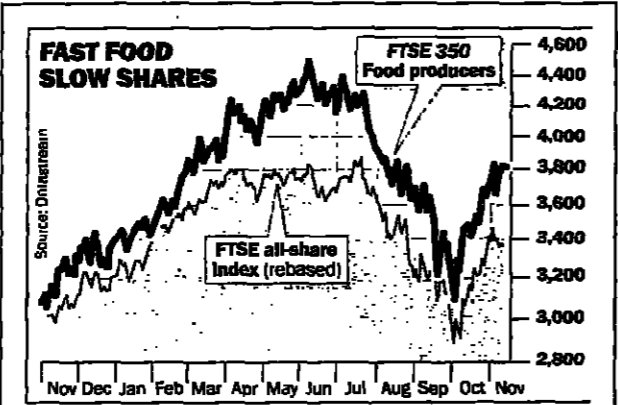
Cautious investors still hopeful of US rate cut

GROWING hopes of a cut in US interest rates and an easing of tension in the Gulf enabled share prices to start the week on a firm note.



Dagenham Motors, the Ford dealer, increased 18 1/2p to 143 1/2p on speculation that it will be the subject of a bid

despite some encouraging comments from HSBC Securities, it has moved the shares from "add" to "buy".



FAST FOOD SLOW SHARES

SOME words of caution about current trading led Unigate nursing a fall of 21 1/2p at 502p and also cast a shadow over the rest of the food manufacturers.

the television broadcaster, 26 1/2p to 57p. Max Ulfane has bought 10,000 shares at 547p.

British Biotech finished 3 1/2p lower at 40 1/2p with HSBC Securities continuing to urge clients to "sell".

There was further heavy turnover in Booker which firmed another 3 1/2p to 72p on speculative buying as 3.67 million shares changed hands.

NEW YORK: Shares reacted positively to the situation in Iraq. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 69.26 points to 8,988.85.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and various regional indices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Anglian Water B, Chemil, Collective Assets Trust, First Active, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Advanced Medicine n/p (144), Bloomsbury Publishing n/p (145), etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes in stock prices, including Abacus Retail, Abbot Group, etc.

TEMPUS

Milking distribution

THE most attractive bit of Unigate, the fresh food and dairy company, has nothing to do with either food or milk.

Being shown by Wincanton may persuade Unigate that the best use of resources is in that side of the business.

Emap

EMAP is good at launching new magazines, and equally good at killing off failures with dispatch.

Marston's

GETTING to grips with securitisation is tricky at the best of times. But throw in a convoluted structure involving preference shares...

Berisford

Berisford is better appreciated across the Atlantic but the message should eventually get through in London.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates for various countries and currencies.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various sectors and companies.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street market data including various stock prices and indices.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposit rates for various currencies and terms.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metal prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like coffee, oil, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various currencies.

Large advertisement for Emu and Overbrook products on the right edge of the page.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: "مكنا من الأصل"







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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name and category. Includes columns for fund name, price, and change. Categories include various equity, bond, and specialty funds.

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THIS PAGE

# THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE  
The Bush takes  
a wry look at  
the pop world  
PAGE 40



## A place to recall home

A new £5.3 million extension has enhanced the Geffrye Museum's domestic delights. Francis Gilbert reports

Tomorrow the Prince of Wales will open the new extension to the Geffrye Museum in East London. It will be a great change in the life of this much-loved but (until now) slightly run-down institution, massively expanding the museum's scope without losing the Geffrye's charming character.

For many years the Geffrye has been one of the more unusual museums in the country. Until the building of the new extension, which has doubled the museum's floor space and greatly improved its coverage of the 20th century, all its rooms were housed in a long row of picturesque almshouses built in 1715 with money left by Sir Robert Geffrye, once the Lord Mayor of London. These cosy houses served as a retirement home for pensioners and widows for nearly 200 years before the buildings were saved from demolition after a petition by the Arts and Crafts Movement in 1914.

Although initially the museum was narrow in its focus — concentrating mainly on furniture made by local artisans — an inspired curator in the Thirties hit upon the idea of using the space to reveal how ordinary people lived their domestic lives. The combination of this accessible, contextual approach and the intimate setting of the almshouse was a winning formula and the Geffrye became something of a national treasure.

However, by the time that the present director and deputy director took over in the early 1990s, the place had a tired feeling. "It was a lovely, charming place but it had no clear focus," says Christine Lalumia, the deputy director. The director, David Dewing, adds: "We decided the best way to unlock its potential was to build an extension which would raise the museum's profile and attract more people."

They began planning in 1992 and, in a gesture typical of the Geffrye, they involved everyone connected with the museum in the planning — from the catering and security staff to powerful patrons such as the chairman of trustees, Baroness Brigstocke. The total project cost £5.3 million, of which £3.75 million has been provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Branson Coates Architecture were appointed to design the new building. They have doubled the floor space in an ingenious but unobtrusive way, by designing a building the same length as the original 18th-century buildings and with steel, glass and wood balustrades, and enters the lower concourse where there are two huge, almost futuristic classrooms. They are rigged up to enable the teaching of object handling, including pottery and ceramics. The interior walls are glass, so that visitors can see the educational work that the Geffrye does with local schools in Hackney, Tower Hamlets and elsewhere.

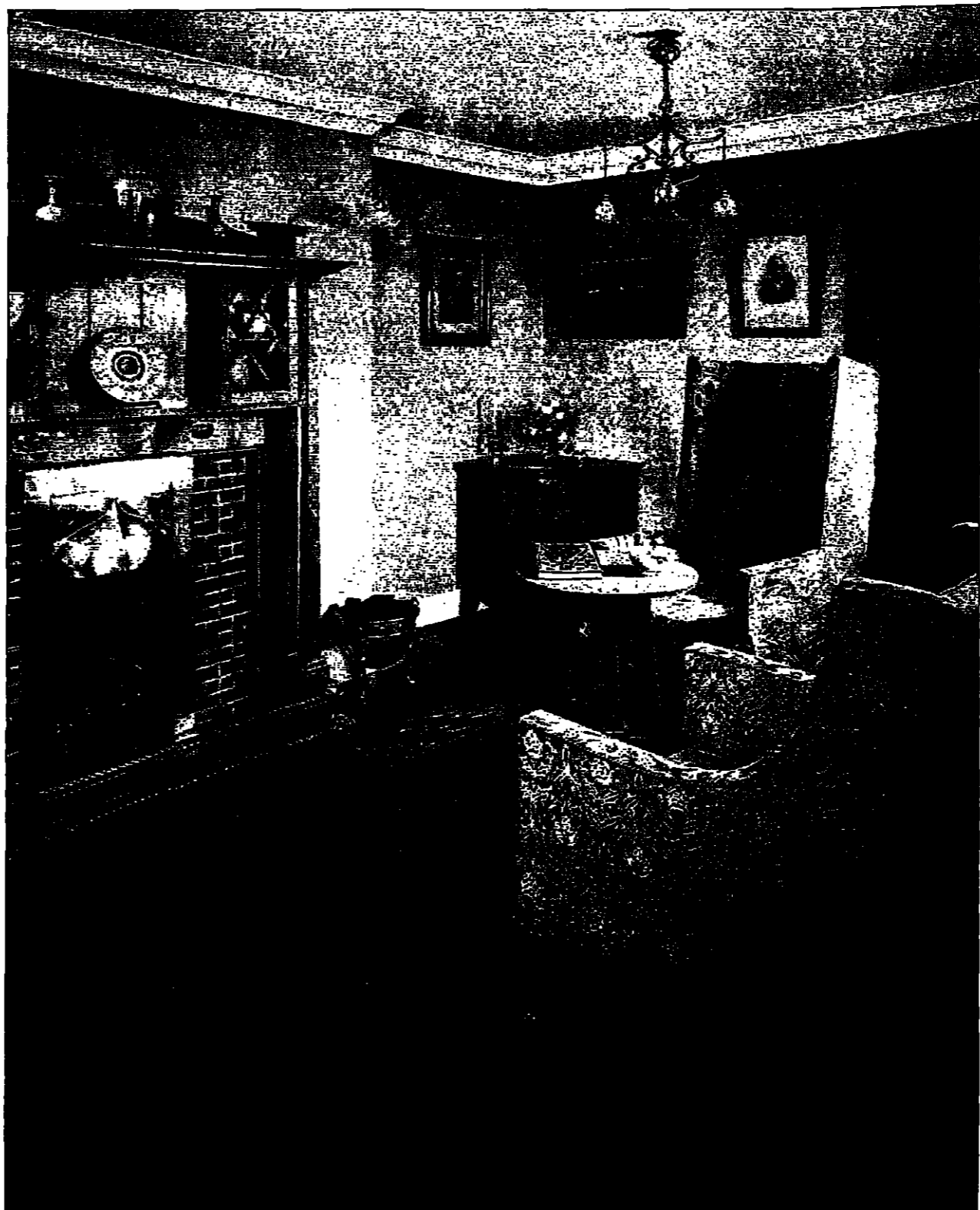
This lower level also houses a design centre that will showcase the best of the contemporary furniture and decorative arts which is produced in Hackney and East London. In addition, a fully secure temporary exhibition gallery on the lower level will enable the Geffrye to highlight the objects that are frequently loaned to it by the Victoria and Albert and other museums.

Having completed an indoor tour, after April next year you will be able to tour the period garden rooms. They will highlight the key styles of middle-class town gardens for the past four centuries. Each garden will correspond to a specific room in the museum.

All of the different threads of the Geffrye are successfully pulled together by this extension into a complete whole. The new design will highlight its educational programmes, extend its period rooms and gardens, improve its promotion of local artists and designers and highlight its importance as a national resource for both the public and scholars.

Building it has been a massive achievement, and it hasn't been easy to accomplish. "It's been pretty stressful," admits Lalumia. "But there is something about the Geffrye which transcends all the day-to-day problems. Sometimes I think that the almshouses must contain a benevolent ghost who solves our problems for us."

The Geffrye Museum (0171-739 9893) is open to the public from Thursday, Tues to Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm. Entrance free



The "Arts and Crafts" style Edwardian room in the Museum's extension, which the Prince of Wales opens tomorrow

## Speed thrills

ONE of the patron saints of jazz fusion, the British guitarist John McLaughlin is as revered for his fluent technique as for the vast catalogue of material he has written and recorded either in his own right or as the leader of such pioneering groups as the Mahavishnu Orchestra and Shakti.

At the Festival Hall he was accompanied by a muscular five-piece band named The Heart of Things, after his current album. Gary Thomas (sax and flute) and Omara Ruiz (electric keyboards) were ostensibly the fore, whether playing contorted melody lines in unison with McLaughlin or blowing at a rate of knots in their own right. But the band was effectively dominated by the rhythm section — Matthew Garrison (electric bass), Victor Williams (percussion) and the hefty Dennis Chambers (drums). Chambers, who approached the task of drumming as if it were a branch of the martial arts, produced an explosive solo during Tony, while Williams shook, struck and blew all manner of objects to create the sound of a jungle dawn at the beginning of Fallen Angels.

McLaughlin seemed content to prowling the side of the stage for much of the time, leaving the way clear for the young guns to strut their stuff. But he still ensured that there was no doubt as to who was the boss. Bearing down every so often on either Thomas or Ruiz, he would throw down the gauntlet with a stinging flurry of notes, easily outpacing anything either of his sparing partners had to offer.

Dispatched with plenty of vigour and bravado, this was a dramatic set of virtuoso jazz for the rock generation.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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## Revolutionary consistency

MANCHESTER CONCERTS

Looking at the immaculately turned out, impeccably polite 72-year-old composer at the Hans Werner Henze Festival in Manchester last week, I found it difficult to see in him the middle-aged revolutionary of 30 years ago. But the least predictable discovery of the five days of his music at the Royal Northern College of Music was the revelation of a consistency over a much longer period than that.

It might be true that the First Piano Concerto, which won the promising young composer the Robert Schumann Prize in 1951, is only half formed, both stylistically and structurally, and that the Eighth Symphony, written 40 years later, is as sophisticated as any orchestral score written since the death of Richard Strauss. But the personality behind the two works, both of which were included in the closing concert of the festival, is recognisably the same.

Much happened in the mean time — half a lifetime, in fact, including the period when the composer so fervently identified with student rebellion in the late 1960s. That was when he produced, alongside music theatre pieces as adolescent in concept as they are dramatic in effect, the Sixth Symphony performed by the RNCM SO with Elgar Howarth earlier in the week.

Scored for two chamber orchestras and written specifically for the Cuban National Orchestra and a proletarian public in 1969, it is an extraordinary mixture of revolutionary sentiment and musical complexity. It is also, above all when played with such exuberance as it stimulated in these student musicians, an exhilarating experience driven largely by rhythm but also by sounds which — though not intended for the internal organs of an audience that couldn't tell the difference between a freedom song by Mikis Theodorakis and one from the Vietnamese Liberation Front — have a visceral impact.

## BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available classical recordings, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

BEETHOVEN'S "GHOST" PIANO TRIO  
Reviewed by Julius Drake

YOU have only to hear the mysterious opening bars of the slow movement of this Beethoven trio to know why it is known as the Ghost. Rather like the equally famous Moonlight Sonata the music immediately suggests its title — or at any rate, something like it.

Not that Beethoven himself ever gave these pieces labels: usually publishers thought an evocative name tag might sell a few more copies — and of course, not many composers complain about that.

There is another possible reason for the title. Beethoven wrote copiously all his life in sketchbooks, jotting down musical ideas and themes as they occurred to him and then working on them and developing them, often painstakingly and over long periods of time, until they achieved their final state.

In the sketchbooks of 1808,

alongside the themes that eventually became the Ghost Trio, are themes for a projected opera on Shakespeare's Macbeth. That opera never came into being, but perhaps it is not too fanciful to imagine, in the shattering climax of the slow movement, Macbeth's horror when he sees Banquo's ghost.

Anyway, there is no doubt that this slow movement is the emotional heart of the trio, and if the musicians fail to capture its mystery and spectral quality the performance loses its way. Believe me, it is strangely elusive and many fall by the wayside. Barenboim, Du Pré and Zukerman, the Beau Arts Trio, Kempff, Szeryng, Fournier and Casals, Fuchs and Vegh all pass the test with flying colours.

But of course there are also

the first and last movements to consider, and they encompass a Beethovenian range: the strong and muscular, wistful and sweet, witty, graceful and delicate. For me it became apparent there was one quite outstanding recording. Daniel Barenboim, Jacqueline Du Pré and Pinchas Zukerman were not that long out of school when their EMI recording was made in 1970 (CMS 7 69707-2, £19.99 for a two-CD set that includes Elgar, Haydn and Beethoven), but I suspect that may well explain part of the freshness and spontaneity of their playing. However, there is also a profound seriousness and integrity, as well as an instinctive response to this great piece of chamber music. Above all the chemistry is right — they just play marvelously together.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to: FREE-POST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk  
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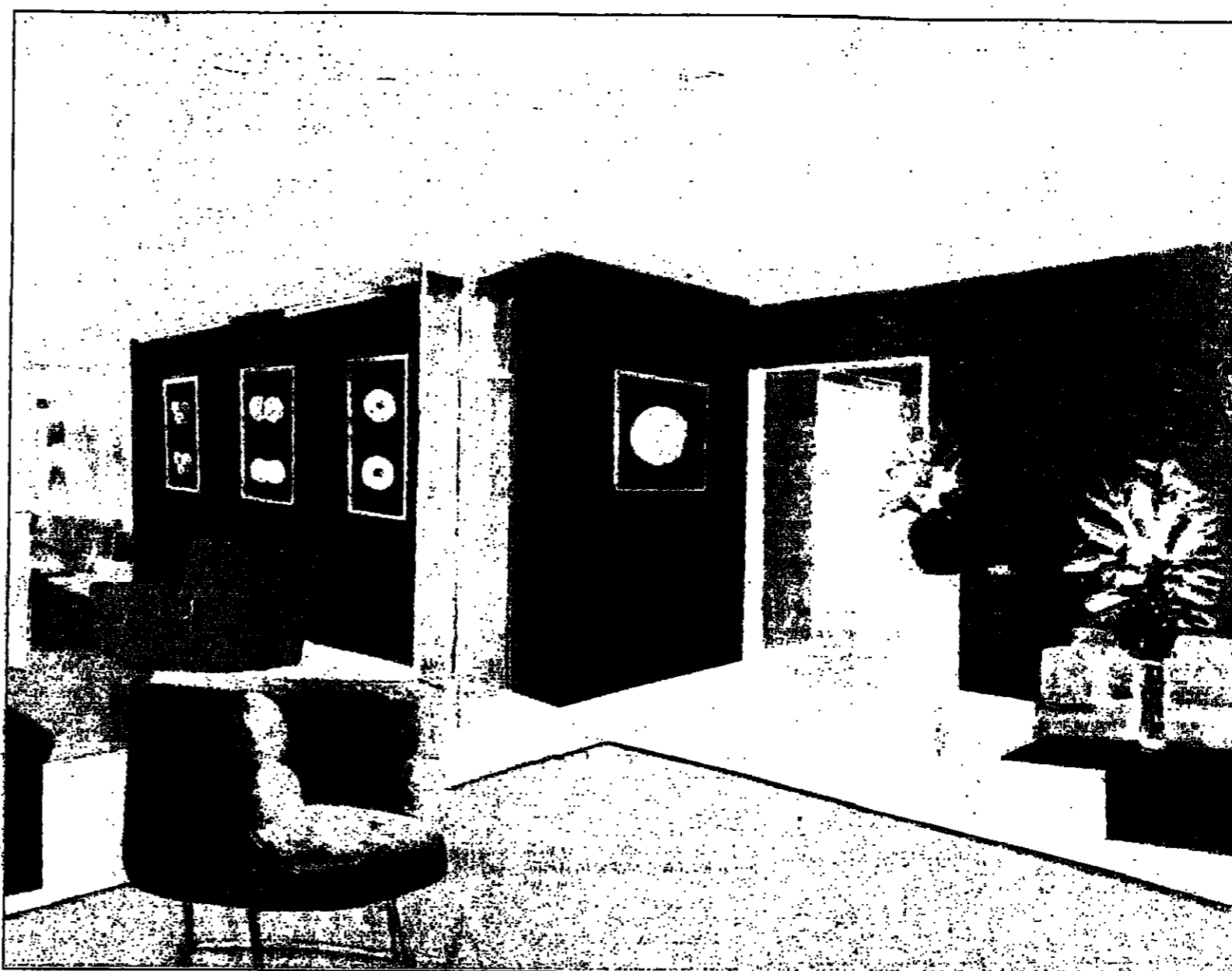
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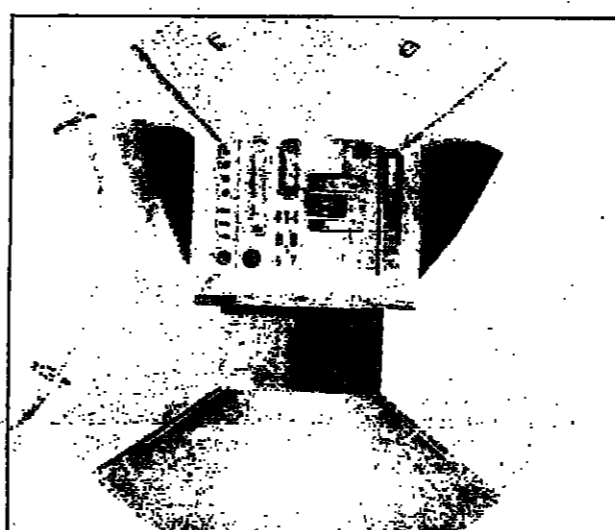
# A fatal attraction to cuteness



LEFT: Jun Hasegawa displays her dreamy comic-book style in Juliette Lewis. BELOW LEFT: I Love Black Music by sculptor Gary Webb. RIGHT: David Thorpe's Paisley Park



LEFT: The oddly tender severed head of Mule by Caroline Warde. RIGHT: Apollo 12 by Dexter Dalwood, who typifies the mood of the exhibition by avoiding openly disturbing imagery

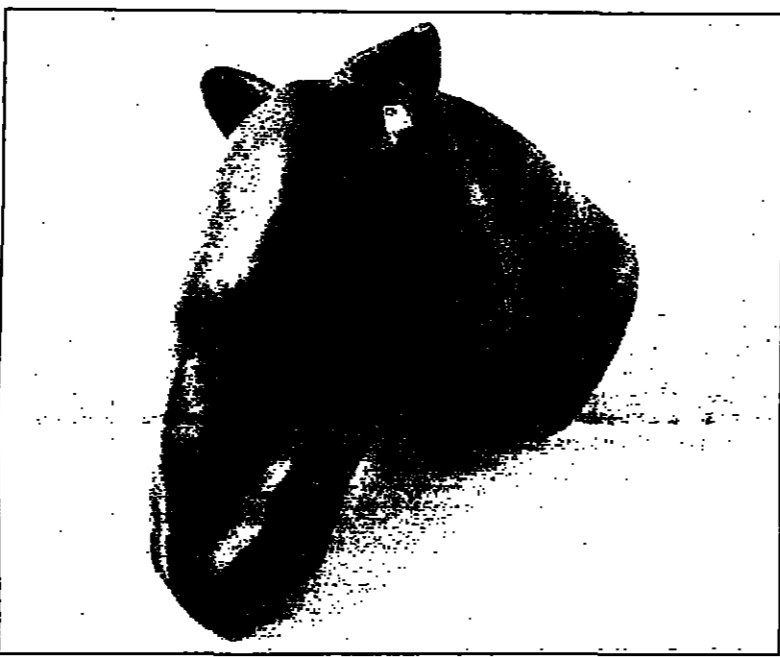
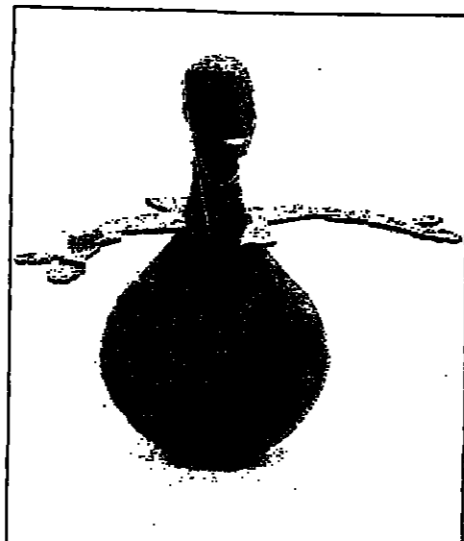


RIGHT: Jane Brennan's Nightingale makes a typical virtue of informality in a show where much of the art seems better suited to a home rather than to a museum



**VISUAL ART: The 'new wave' on show at the ICA mostly looks backwards, says Richard Cork**

Just over a year from the century's end, the latest wave of British artists is flirting with suicide. *Die Young Stay Pretty*, urges the title of their show at the ICA. The first image confronting visitors, Dexter Dalwood's garish painting of Sharon Tate's house, might seem in thrall to violent, premature extinction. But no trace of blood or bodies can be found in this glossy, empty room, and the American flag draped over the white sofa sounds an unexpectedly festive note. In his avoidance of openly disturbing imagery, Dalwood typifies the mood of the entire exhibition. If death is hard to detect, a nostalgic love of retro glamour is more noticeable. Japanese-born, Goldsmiths-trained Jun Hasegawa moons over the young Paul Weller in her gloss-painted, cut-out collage. Like Dalwood, Hasegawa adopts a comic-book style dreamily dependent on Roy Lichtenstein and Alex Katz. Alongside these knowing references to the past, *Die Young Stay Pretty* reassesses the old hierarchy of painting and sculpture. Installations are nowhere to be seen, and the only video is confined to a small TV screen. Impersonality gives way to a renewed fascination with private lives and domestic surroundings.



Such concerns chime with the way Martin Maloney, the show's curator, used his own house in Brixton a few years ago as an unpretentious showcase called *Lost in Space*, making a virtue of informality. Even now, transposed to the ICA's Regency grandeur, much of the art still seems suited to a home rather than a museum. Jane Brennan's irritatingly cute panel paintings of beads, lotus flowers or mistletoe seem devoid of any impulse other than a vapid desire to indulge in faux-naïf prettiness. She lacks the feistiness shown by Maloney himself, who dares to brandish his childlike handling of oil paint on a canvas of monumental proportions. Taking his cue from Poussin's *The Choice of Hercules*, he updates the mythological scene by showing three figures partying to the blare of a ghetto-blaster. Stripped down to a pair of bulging trunks, with a towel flung rascally over one tanned shoulder, the man in the centre grins at the blonde beside him. She looks as rapacious as the brunette with the bare midriff on the other side. The frieze-like design possesses a Poussin-like classicism, but Maloney cultivates gaucheness. The only other artist with Maloney's chutzpah is the American Steven Gontarski. Yet even in his rampant pop-culture sculpture called *Wife*, the overtly sexual content

seems calculated to discourage arousal in the viewer. Imprisoned in their glistening straitjackets, these disconsolate lovers are akin to Sarah Lucas's *Bunny*, the kapok-stuffed figure who was the most forlorn exhibit in last year's *Sensation* survey at the Royal Academy.

Far from presenting an outright alternative to the *Sensation* show, *Die Young Stay Pretty* intersects with the earlier exhibition. Charles Saatchi has already acquired work by several of the artists displayed here, and he included two of the strongest artists now at the ICA: Maloney and Peter Davies. *The Hot One Hundred*, Davies's wittiest exhibit at the Royal Academy, relied for its impact on a written list of Davies's favourite artists. Here he leaves words behind to manipulate multicoloured stripes, cubes or white spirals on a black ground.

In his fascination with stridently decorative abstraction, Davies stands apart from his fellow exhibitors. For the overriding thrust of this show is allied with representation, even if the images are filtered through the mass-market culture of television, newspaper photographs and fanzine illustrations. David Thorpe's art-shop paper pictures look like period record covers, with a hint of old-fashioned psych-

edelia in their heightened colour oppositions. But the apocalyptic-sounding *Ready to Burn* turns out to be no more incendiary than three skyscrapers glowing orange against a pale pink sunset.

Michael Radecker first impressed me with his contributions to *Loose Threads* at the Serpentine Gallery, where minimal interiors took on a stark, alienated emptiness. Now Radecker aligns himself more clearly with his native Dutch tradition by moving out into the landscape. But there is nothing consolatory about his vision of the natural world. Haze explores a bleak panorama, its glacial desolation punctuated only by a few rocks, some perfunctory bushes and an isolated tree.

Here, if anywhere, is an artist whose bleakness begins to justify the exhibition's injunction to die. Caroline Warde's severed head of a mule might be stumbled upon in a similarly benighted place. Her modelling of this painted resin sculpture is, however, more tender than harsh. She commands a quiet strangeness that compares favourably with the other sculptor in the show, Gary Webb. Intoxicated by combining Perspex, glass, plastic fruit, paper and acrylic paint, in order to make a form reminiscent of a Christmas candle with streamers, he succeeds merely in producing a concoction as wearisome as its title: *God Knows*.

It is left to the solitary video to sum up the show's dual obsession with morbidity and narcissism. The young gay man in *Teeth, Toes and Contact Lenses*, by Shaun Roberts and Gilbert McCarragher, swings feverishly between manic anxiety and prolonged self-absorption. His careful ablutions centre repeatedly on extensive scrutiny in the mirror. Towards the end, the man sinks grimly beneath the surface of his bath-water. But the threatened suicide turns out to be an illusion. Prettiness triumphs in his beguilingly candid world: and death is put on hold.

Die Young Stay Pretty is at the ICA (0171-930 0493) until Jan 10

**'No trace of blood or bodies can be found here'**

### AROUND THE GALLERY

THE competence of Mark Shields as a painter is undoubted. But in this show he goes beyond mere technical mastery. His small portraits capture a sense of mystery too, of half-remembered faces and moods. But it is the landscapes which most enchant. Like gleaming fragments of a Corot canvas lovingly lifted from their context, they distil the mingled sentiments of sadness and joy to which any Romantic will only too easily respond. Grosvenor Gallery, 18 Albemarle St, London W1 (0171-629 0891) until Nov 27

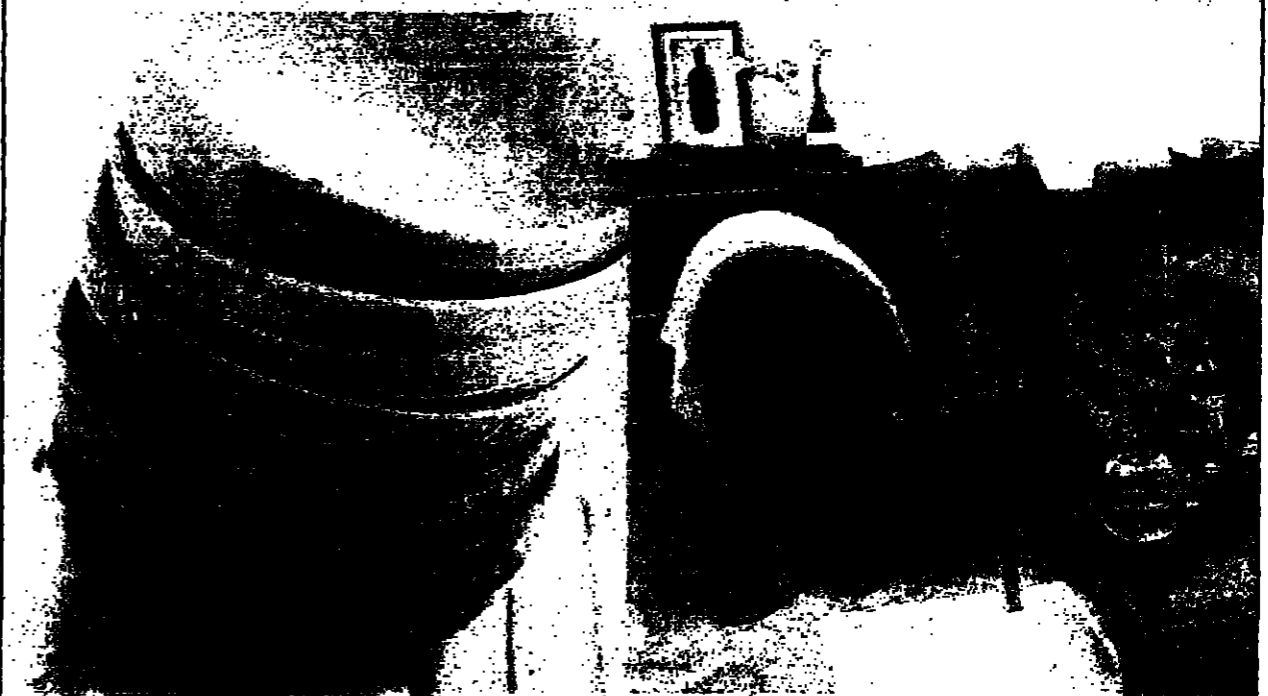
ers are full of fascination, humour and allure. Festival Hall, London SE1, (0171-921 0600) until Nov 29

KNOWN for his commissions for the National Trust and the Prince of Wales, Hugh Buchanna appears less representational, more meditative in his new work. Computer-generated images, screenprinted on to board and then painted over, create strange hybrid scenes in which the ancient guards the gateway to the innovative. Behind the visionary images, Buchanna is posing serious questions about the nature of our architectural landscape and its legacy. Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (0171-499 6670) until Dec 3

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

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CHANGING TIMES

## Speed thrills

ONE of the patron saints of the British guitar, John McLaughlin is as renowned for his fluent technique as for his catalogue of music. He has written and recorded in his own right, and is the leader of such pioneering groups as the Mahavishnu Orchestra and Shakti. At the Festival Hall he was accompanied by a muscular band named The World Court after his concert. Gary Thomas and Omar Hakim's keyboards were in the fore, whether in a more melodic or in a more rhythmic mood.

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LISTINGS

Sir Cliff at the Albert Hall

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

LONDON

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC: The venerable Austrian orchestra makes a welcome visit here under the baton of conductor Claudio Abbado.

THE STORES: Susan Lynch, Meggie Steed and Tom Mannion star in a revival of Ostrovsky's 1869 drama of a stifling, provincial marriage.

CLIFF RICHARD: The over-50-year-old entertainer celebrates 40 exciting years in showbiz with a series of concert featuring hits from his long career and songs from his recent album.

Mariss Jansons conducts Strauss at the RHF

sublime sonatas by Schubert, Mozart and Haydn.

SHEPHERD: Michael Grandage's sly cast for Twelfth Night includes Ian Bartholomew, Jeremy Clyde, Una Stubbs and Malcolm Stoddart.

SOUTHAMPTON: Glyndebourne Touring Opera descends here for the week with two performances of Graham Vick's acclaimed production of Così fan tutte.

ELSEWHERE

MANCHESTER: The veteran pianist Alfred Brendel brings his relaxed touch to bear on a programme of

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

MY BOY: Tom Conti in John Dowie's short comedy giving Joseph's side of the Jesus story.

CRIMES OF THE HEART: Amanda Bower plays one of the three sisters in Beth Henley's Pulitzer-awarded family drama.

LOVE UPON THE THRONE: The National Theatre of Great Britain takes us through the coronation of King Lear.

HALF MOON: Set in a Fitzrovia pub during the Falklands war, Jack Shepherd's new play asks what happens to pacifists and dissenters when the rest of society wants to fight.

MUCH AD ABOUT EVERYTHING: Jackie Heston's new one-man show, pre-Broadway, brings a sharp eye and a cutting tongue to the current scene.

INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's wonderfully nightmarish take on the fairy tale.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE: John Wood plays the ageless A.E. Housman twitting his early self in Tom Stoppard's glittering play.

AMADEUS: David Suchet plays Salieri with Michael Sheen as Mozart in Peter Kosminsky's production.

THE MAN WHO THINKS HE'S IT: As a study in embarrassment Steve Coogan has no equal.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

BLADE (R): Edemeghag, jumbled horror fantasy, fun for a time, with Wesley Snipes as the vampire-hunting action hero.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (R): Terry Gilliam's irreverent and whimsical version of Hunter S. Thompson's novel about a journalist on a drug binge in 1971.

HOPE FLOATS (PG): Can Sandra Bullock survive the collapse of her marriage? Do we care? Predictable drama, with Harry Connick Jr.

HOPE FLOATS (PG): Can Sandra Bullock survive the collapse of her marriage? Do we care? Predictable drama, with Harry Connick Jr.

INSOMNIA (R): Homicide cop with frayed nerves tries to solve a teenage girl's murder.

MY NAME IS JOE (R): Relaxed Glasgow comic begins an awkward romance with a healthcare worker.

PRIMARY COLORS (R): John Travolta's Presidential candidate runs into an awkward woman with a healthcare worker.

SMALL SOLDIERS (PG): Action figures implicated with US Defense Department in chips give substance to hard facts.

Fare idea of the city

TYPICAL: you wait ages for a site specific art event and then three come along together. That, and other poor bus-related jokes, are all you can expect really, since the first of Artangel's Ineracity commissions took place on one of London's beloved Routemasters.

In Surface Noise Robin Rimbaud, aka Scanner, did six trips an evening in a double-decker equipped with a mixing deck, very loud speakers and a bunch of passengers.

As an art experience Surface Noise was crazily concept-heavy. The sounds and music mixed on the bus route were the result of Scanner's walk through the city on November 4, his route based on laying the sheet music to London Bridge is Falling Down over a map of the city.

At the entrance to the short dark tunnel that leads into this theatre a notice warns patrons: "This play contains language, behaviour and clothing which some may consider offensive."

The tartan-trimmed jeans worn by the two members of a Bay City Rollers tribute band are crazy but comical.

"THERE'S a funny smell in here," says Jean's only friend Dawn, tacking in the filthy Kilburn bedsitter Jean inhabits when not toiling at the fill in the filling station or picking up worthless men.

HETTIE JUDAH

ARTS



Ona McCracken, Nicola Redmond and Joanne Pearce as a Rollers-Royce frontline in Catherine Johnson's Shang-a-Lang

Take a little love

At the entrance to the short dark tunnel that leads into this theatre a notice warns patrons: "This play contains language, behaviour and clothing which some may consider offensive."

She herself, last seen struggling against kinder fates in RSC productions of Cymbeline and Little Eyolf, quickly decides that here she has met her match and removes the horrifying object seconds after trying it on.

part. Over and over again the slobbish Roy (Patrick Davey, who also directs) asks Jean if she feels all right, and each time she answers "Yuh" in her listless voice.

THEATRE

Shang-a-Lang

Bush, W12

Lauren (Ona McCracken) who is anybody's for anything. They tangle themselves with the two musicians, a coarsely bitter Peter Junfield and a coarsely enthusiastic Stephen Graham, and what begins in dreams ends in tears.

Nor is Jean one to return the ball of chatter over the net. Sharon Swyer sits in her armchair with her legs in the classically ungainly posture of heels apart, toes together.

absence of fellow-feeling, and it comes with far-reaching knowledge of street talk and the music scene (she is currently working with Björn and Benny on the Abba musical).

With his shoulder-length grey hair and worldly-wise ways, Ralph Watson's failed writer, Roy, holds wobbly superiority over his bohemian friends. He makes fumbling passes at Eileen Batty's bar-

No way to stop the rot

Ecstasy

part. Over and over again the slobbish Roy (Patrick Davey, who also directs) asks Jean if she feels all right, and each time she answers "Yuh" in her listless voice.

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# 'I want to make lawyers' voices heard'

Kamlesh Bahl aims to be President of the Law Society by 2000. Interview by Frances Gibb

**K**amlesh Bahl is still turning over last week's pre-launch leak of her plans for a new, tough equality law. The leak — the suspect is an MP — took the edge off her swansong, the climax of two years' consultation and hard work. But the press report, which indicated government support, seems to have backfired; and Whitehall found itself backpedalling to deny backing for the measures at this stage.

"That's what happens when you spin," Ms Bahl remarked wryly. "It couldn't have happened to nicer people." Nonetheless, the package of reforms proposing a new super-equality law in place of existing outdated discrimination and equal pay laws is a fitting tribute to her five-year tenure at the helm of the Equal Opportunities Commission. She leaves later this month. Her decision to go a few months early is typically single-minded: elected in July as deputy Vice-President of the Law Society, she plans to focus on the profession.

She admits to the goal of the presidency in 2000. She would be the first woman leader of the 70,000-strong solicitors' profession in England and Wales. "With some key changes coming up, it is a very exciting time for the profession. I believe the Law Society needs to be strong, robust and proactive in this debate." Ms Bahl, 42, is already regarded as a breath of fresh air among solicitors. Equal treatment is a passion, born of personal experience of discrimination. When she emerged with a 2.1 law degree from Birmingham University, she applied to 250 law firms for a job. All rejected her. Both her sex, and her race — she is Kenyan Asian — counted against her. "At one interview the man looked up, saw my face and said, 'Oh, sorry, I think your interview was yesterday.'" But she is not the archetypal feminist. The model for Usha

**She is the model for the solicitor in The Archers**

in Kenya and her father, who brought the family to Britain in the 1960s, a civil servant. But in the early days she had to shake off the "loony Left" label and inevitably drew criticism from idealists.

Her approach has been pragmatic. No soundbite feminist, she makes statements that are authoritative — and founded on detailed research. She set about, for instance, assembling hard data to prove the business case for equality, to show that equal treatment pays; and that discrimination can be costly. "When I came, everyone said — but equal treatment costs money."

She has also sought to carry organisations along with any plans for reform. As a result, the commission has won respect across



"We need a mature debate about ensuring equality for women is not at the expense of men"

the worker-boss divide. There have been landmark achievements, from the winning of employment rights for 80,000 part-time workers, equal pension rights for men and women, a code of practice on equal pay, proposals for childcare reform and the lifting of the limit on compensation in employment tribunals — a move that forced employers to realise they could no longer discriminate with impunity. "Employers had to change their attitude, to go into prevention mode, whereas before they thought they could take the business risk of a fine of £1,000 to £2,000 or so."

Now she says there must be a shift from using the law to fight discrimination to a positive promotion of equal treatment for men and women. Despite its image, the commission has always helped men (the unequal pensions age) and recently did research into why girls were so outstripping boys at school. But historically, discrimination has been

against women, she says. "We have used the weapon of the law to bring about a change in attitude. Now we must build on that, so that equal treatment is at the heart of what employers and the Government do. We need to have a mature debate about ensuring that equality for women is not at the expense of men and balancing home and work." She and her husband (a sole practitioner GP) have chosen not to have children; but despite a heavy diary of engagements and dinners, she is learning the harmonica with her husband and taking singing lessons. At work, she is turning her skills to the solicitors' profession. She wants to boost their image, talk to law firms and tackle government plans for legal aid contracts, which she fears will discriminate against many small (and ethnic minority) firms. Solicitors, she argues, play a crucial role as guardians of individuals' rights. "I want to make sure their voices are heard."

solicitors. Ms Fernandes is leading a campaign to persuade Lord Irvine to give ethnic minority solicitors more time to prepare for his legal aid reforms. Last week she held a meeting on the issue which was attended by more than 200 solicitors.

■ PAUL BOATENG is back. The legal profession breathed a collective sigh of relief when the fiery MP, who was Labour's legal affairs spokesman in opposition, became a Health Minister after the general election. But it wasn't counting on the Ron Davies affair. Mr Boateng, who threatened to refer the profession to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and force solicitors to do pro bono work, has replaced Alun Michael, the new Welsh Secretary, at the Home Office. Last week the Home Office said its new minister had been given special responsibility for criminal justice policy, a move that will do nothing to ease tension between the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Home Office over who should set the legal agenda.

## Legal DIARY

HEADHUNTERS should get busy. Dame Barbara Mills, QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, is still looking for a new job. And she has even signed on for a computer course: "I'm going to be online, on message, on everything." Another high-profile woman in the justice system, Heather Hallett, QC, is pondering what she'll do when her time as Bar Council chief ends, admitting she is not relishing the prospect of going back to the grind of prosecuting and defence work in the criminal courts.

■ THE BAR COUNCIL has relaxed its advertising rules so chambers can now describe themselves as "leading" sets. The move follows this column's revelation in March that several sets, including the former chambers of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, at 11 King's Bench Walk, were breaching the rules by using

the term "leading" on their websites. The absurd code-of-conduct ban on barristers making statements about the quality of their work and the size or success of their practice has now been lifted, although barristers are still not allowed to comment on their individual success rate.

■ A NEW political/legal husband-and-wife team has emerged in the mould of Henry Hodge and his MP wife Margaret, and Tony Blair and Cherie Booth, QC. The new kids on the block are the MP Keith Vaz, now parliamentary private secretary to the government law officers, and his wife Maria Fernandes. Mr Vaz has been in the political limelight for many years. His wife, who specialises in immigration law, is now making her mark at the Law Society. Recently appointed as the Council member for ethnic minority

## Does it matter if 247 judges are Masons?

**I**n 1889 Lord Justice Bowen suggested in a Court of Appeal judgment that "judges, like Caesar's wife, should be above suspicion". But even judges have human rights, one of which is protection against unjustifiable invasions of privacy. The Government's decision that they should declare whether they are Freemasons is impossible to justify, and may become unlawful once the Human Rights Act is implemented.

In March 1997 the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee recommended that judges, magistrates, Crown prosecutors and police officers be required to register Masonic membership in a form accessible to the public, even though it found no evidence of Masonic corruption or malign influence on judicial proceedings. Its concern related to public perception that Freemasonry is a secret society, leading to "wild, unjustified allegations of abuse".

After a battle between Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who wanted to implement an obligation of disclosure by the judiciary, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, who did not, the Government in February declared that all judges and magistrates would be asked voluntarily to declare whether they are Freemasons. Mr Straw added that, in future, such a declaration would be a condition of appointment to such offices.

In faithful implementation of this policy, Lord Irvine wrote at the end of July to more than 5,000 judges, asking them voluntarily to declare (for the purposes of a public register) whether they are Freemasons. The Lord Chancellor's Department has now announced that 247 judges have admitted to being Freemasons, and 64 have declined to answer.

At the end of October, Lord Saville of Newdigate, a law lord, expressed publicly an opinion voiced privately by most judges: the policy is an unjustified invasion of privacy that serves only to undermine public confidence in the independence of the judiciary. That is the view of the limited number of judges who are Freemasons. But it is also the opinion of those of us, including Lord Saville, who have no interest in spending our evenings practising peculiar handshakes.

Requiring new judges to state whether they are Freemasons, and encourag-

ing existing judges to do so, is undoubtedly an invasion of privacy. Personal privacy is essential to our autonomy as human beings, whatever job we do. The Lord Chancellor would not normally expect candidates for judicial office to tell the public about their religious beliefs, political views or sexual preferences as the price of appointment to the Bench. It is, in general, a matter for me (and my family) whether I spend my leisure hours in the golf club, the Garrick Club or Arsenal Football Club.

On occasions, as Milton wrote, when "to the public good, private respects must yield". But what public good can justify the invasion of privacy? The Home Secretary's reasoning is that "membership of secret societies can raise suspicions of a lack of impartiality or objectivity". But this is to pander to ill-informed prejudice. If, as the select committee found after exhaustive inquiries, there is no evidence of improper Masonic influences on judicial decisions, members of the public should be reassured that there is no reason for concern.

It is perverse falsely to imply to the supposedly concerned public that there is a problem about exceptional measures not taken in relation to any other activity. The public should simply be told that our judges have a variety of private interests, there is no reason to doubt that they put such interests aside when judging cases, and they are selected for appointment precisely because they are able to adjudicate in an independent manner.

It is hard to understand how a register will reassure members of the public suffering from ill-informed concern. To suggest that they should be comforted by the fact that only 247 judges admit to being Freemasons would wrongly imply that there is something so dishonourable about being a Freemason that a larger judicial membership would be troubling.

The Government's policy is hard to reconcile with the guarantee in the European Convention on Human Rights that privacy must be protected against unjustifiable interference. It would be ironic indeed if, when the Human Rights Act is implemented, one of the first successful cases were brought by the judiciary.

● The author, a practising barrister and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, sits as a part-time judge.



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# Make 'em laugh, milord

Lord Irvine is displaying a real sense of humour. Is this the end of jokes about Wolsey and wallpaper? Frances Gibb reports on spinning the Lord Chancellor

**C**all it a charm offensive or skilled-spin-doctoring: either way, Lord Irvine of Lairg, man. Last week he appeared before MPs in the Commons Home Affairs Committee and gave an accomplished performance: not a whisper over wallpaper or a hint of DIY.

He fielded questions comfortably, defused potential conflict by admitting to changes of heart and mastered even the odd "googly" — his word with ease. Only once was he accused of being on the defensive. "I thought I was being rather eloquent," he joked.

Yet a year ago Lord Irvine was likened to Cardinal Wolsey, the butt of media ridicule and generator of many column inches over the £650,000 refurbishment of his apartments. He had become the hate figure in the new Government; the legal profession disowned him; his Whitehall department officials found him abrasive and patronising. Cabinet colleagues overbearing. Some resented his power and closeness to Tony Blair. Earlier this year his reputation seemed to reach its nadir when 100 Labour MPs tabled an early day motion seeking to curb the Lord Chancellor's powers and create a Ministry of Justice.

What has changed? First, Garry Hart arrived. A solicitor and friend of Tony Blair and Lord Irvine, he gave up his lucrative practice at the law firm Herbert Smith to help as the latter's political adviser-cum-PR strategist. Even Lord Irvine himself — in what was then a rare joke at his own expense — remarked that turning his image around might be "a task too far".

But Hart is that rare thing, a public servant who feels free to tell his master what he should do. And Lord Irvine is inclined to listen. Hart, who has a natural wit, set about inducting his friend into the world of politics, explaining he could expect some rough treatment, and that not every mistake needed a 2,000-word let-

ter to an editor. He also sought to exploit what he sees as Lord Irvine's genuine sense of humour. A friend says: "Garry told him 'You're stuck with Cardinal Wolsey and wallpaper. Turn it to your advantage. Instead of letting them make the jokes, you make them'."

So the jokes crept in. The Lord Chancellor began to enjoy making them, even if his delivery could be more finely tuned. To his delight, he found he could win over audiences. One official makes the point that it is not just a question of a makeover, the raw material has to be there too.

The jokes gave Lord Irvine a human face. Press coverage improved — most recently with a flattering profile in *The Sunday Times*. But they have a more serious purpose, defusing potential media fire so that attention can be focused on the huge programme of constitutional and justice reforms that he is masterminding.

There, too, things got off on a bad footing. His anti-lawyer speech at Cardiff last autumn, detailing plans to dismantle civil legal aid, had seemed a winner. But it alienated not only the legal profession but also consumer groups.

Lord Irvine had arrived raw to government, to predictions that he would be the lawyer's friend and no match for Lord Mackay of Clashfern, his predecessor, in reforming zeal. He intimated as much, displaying sympathy with their concerns over the previous Government's plans for legal aid. But once in office, he seemed deter-

mined to prove otherwise. He then poured salt in the wound with his "far cats" attack on top-earning lawyers. The profession got work, and months of negotiations have paid off. Lord Irvine, the advocate, did listen to argument, and the force of what was said by lawyers, consumer groups and not a few Labour MPs prevailed. The withdrawal of civil legal aid has been delayed.

The constitutional front has proved another jousting ground. Lord Irvine fanned media fears that the Human Rights Bill, perhaps this Government's most important piece of legislation, would create a privacy law by the back door. As the press turned its attention to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Lord Irvine seized the spotlight back by saying there was no public interest in Cook's marriage and suggesting the Press Complaints Commission operate to block publication of such stories.

That debate has moved on. The Human Rights Act is on the statute book, although not yet in force. Now attention is on its broader impact and on other reforms, such as that of the House of Lords, and freedom of information measures. In all, Lord Irvine has a central role.

It may not be plain sailing. The Modernisation of Justice Bill, which will sweep away the last of lawyers' monopolies, will stir opposition; and a tribunal case is pending in which Lord Irvine may have to give evidence in person — over Hart's appointment and allegations of discrimination.

But the mood is generally conciliatory. Lord Irvine recently applauded the community legal work done by "some of the finest solicitors and barristers in this country" — who did not become rich, he added.

The past year has been bruising. Both wallpaper and Wolsey have probably run their course and he can get on with the business of government. It is on this, he would argue, that he should be judged. The likelihood is that he now will be.



So the jokes crept in: but Lord Irvine of Lairg still needs to fine-tune his delivery

# Russia: not above the law yet

Will international law firms bale out of Moscow? Edward Fennell reports

**T**he Russian economy may still have a sore head from August's banking crisis, but it seems to be stepping back from collapse. The rouble has stabilised and what's left of the banking sector has started to function again. Capital markets, though, are very quiet.

As Horst Kohler, the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, pointed out in its soon to be published *Law in Transition*, the ponderous progress of legal reform plays its part in Russian difficulties. "We are now witnessing, in the ongoing financial crisis in Russia, the severe consequences of delays in implementing institutional reform," he said.

"While not the primary cause of the crisis, the lack of a sufficiently transparent and enforceable legal environment has contributed to and exacerbated its effects."

Because of the current problems the market for legal services has shrunk fast. And, as in a poker game, it is the outfits with the deepest pockets and the greatest self-belief who are left in the field. Though there are American, British and German law firms in Moscow, they cannot all survive. Many of the large British outfits such as Allen & Overy have been making staff changes, while others have been redeploying people to other duties or offices. Some small US firms have already closed their offices. As Bruce Bean, a US lawyer in the Moscow office of Clifford Chance, puts it: "A lot of the smaller firms out here never made any profits from their Moscow practices, so why should they bother to stay when there is

no sign that things will improve for at least a year or two?"

By leaving the field, the smaller Western practices are making life easier for the big outfits that are committed to remaining. Clifford Chance has maintained its staffing levels, although it has switched some of its lawyers away from capital markets to wards litigation. Cases are now being taken up and successfully pursued through the Russian courts and partners have chalked up a string of successes — especially in cases connected with agronomists. John Holmes, the managing partner, says: "We have no fears about Western businesses getting justice from Russian judges."

Britt Shaw, managing partner of Eversheds in Moscow, agrees that the Russian courts are not as bad as sometimes painted. He says: "In our experience, the courts are quite reliable, with a level of integrity and efficiency that you might not expect. They are not corrupt and we have won a number of cases in them against the tax authorities."

Eversheds has the advantage of being linked to the AML advocates Bureau, one of the biggest local Russian law firms. An Eversheds lawyer will supervise litigation, but the work will be largely done by a Russian lawyer.

But litigation is not the only source of work. With the rouble so cheap, Western investors are starting to seize the opportunity. Mr Bean says: "I've had British, Spanish and US investors coming through in the last few days. They've seen manufacturing opportunities and are investing. I think they're getting good deals."



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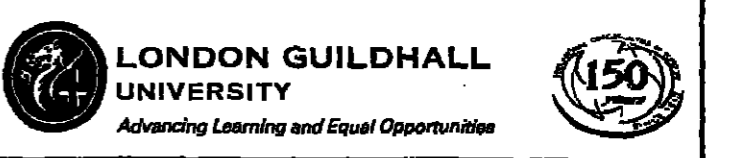
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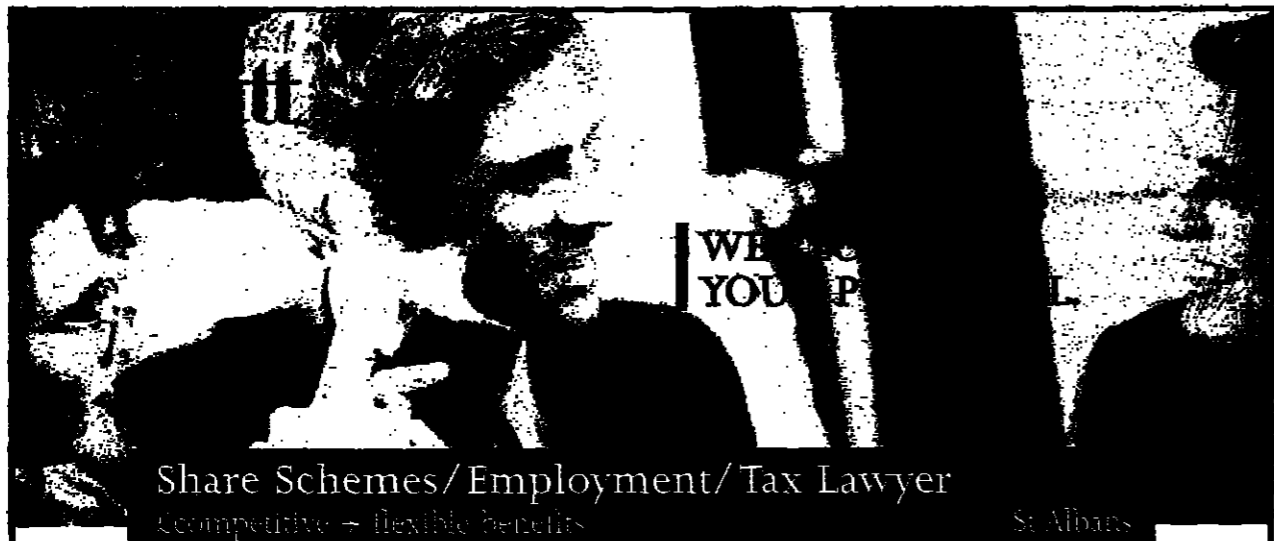
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## International crimes should be tackled globally, says Mark Latimer

As the House of Lords ponders whether the English courts have jurisdiction over General Augusto Pinochet, the case is being watched closely by a group of people around the world who may not be as well known as Chile's former leader but whose very names still inspire fear.

Though the legal process here has focused on the issue of sovereign immunity, it has prompted a flurry of speculation about the wider possibilities of prosecuting internationally those political and military leaders who have committed mass murder, torture and other crimes against humanity.

The principle of national sovereignty and the machinations of realpolitik have conspired to ensure that since the Second World War mass killers and torturers have generally enjoyed impunity.

Despite the agreement over the past half century of international treaties that place a duty on states to protect human rights and to prevent and punish crimes against humanity, the terrible paradox remains that the gravest crimes of all are also among the easiest for which to escape justice.

The perpetrator of a simple assault is more likely to be convicted than a man responsible for mass torture. Those responsible for killing one human being are also more likely to be brought to justice than those who commit genocide.

But now that may all be about to change. Pinochet's arrest in London on October 16 was only the latest in an unprecedented series of recent developments in holding those who commit crimes against humanity internationally accountable.

In an historic judgment in September, Jean Kambanda, the former Rwandan Prime Minister, and Jean Paul Akayesu were found guilty of genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda based in Tanzania. After more than ten arrests in 1998, almost half the people known to have been indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslavia have now been brought before the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. Perhaps most



Pinning down Pinochet: growing possibilities of international prosecution

significantly of all, in July in Rome 120 states approved the founding treaty for a permanent international criminal court with jurisdiction over war crimes, genocide and other crimes against humanity.

But at the core of the Pinochet case lies the notion that you do not need an international court to try a crime under international law. The principle has long been recognised that certain crimes are so heinous that they are subject to universal jurisdiction and can be prosecuted by the courts of any state, even if they were committed by foreign nationals on the territory of another state.

In the 1962 trial of Adolf Eichmann, the German Gestapo chief responsible for administering the "final solution", the Jerusalem court established that "abhorrent

crimes... are not crimes under Israeli law alone. These crimes, which struck at the whole of mankind and shocked the conscience of nations, are grave offences against the law of nations itself."

In 1973 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of principles which declared that all states are to co-operate with each other in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The principles may have existed for a quarter century, but what is new is the will to see them enforced. The alacrity with which prosecutors in Spain, Switzerland and France all moved in the Pinochet case demonstrates widespread acceptance of the obligation of national authorities to bring to justice

those who commit crimes against humanity — even former heads of state.

In the UK, some of our international obligations under treaty have been incorporated into domestic law. In a landmark prosecution in September last year, a Sudanese doctor now resident in Scotland was charged in connection with the torture of detainees at a secret detention centre in Khartoum in 1990. He was charged under 1988 criminal justice legislation which brought UK law in line with the UN Convention against Torture.

Amnesty International believes that there is a compelling case for Pinochet to be charged under the same legislation.

Even where international law is not formally incorporated here, the barrister Murray Hunt and others have pointed to a growing recognition by English courts of the obligation to interpret domestic law so as to be consistent with international human rights principles. All these developments are at an early stage, but they point to a new readiness to recognise human rights as universal and the suppression of crimes against humanity as a duty shared by all states. Fifty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed, the international community is starting to get tough with those who abuse human rights. The international prosecution of those who commit crimes against humanity will not just deliver justice to victims and their families who have suffered unimaginable pain, it also promises to have a powerful deterrent effect, helping to break the cycle of impunity that leads to continuing violations of human rights.

Richard Goldstone, former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, argues: "Bringing to justice those responsible for gross human rights violations could be vital to the re-establishment of peace in a territory ravaged by war."

Knowing that they could be brought to justice anywhere for their crimes would mean that however powerful they felt now, mass killers and torturers could never look forward to a comfortable retirement, and never find a place to hide. For those planning crimes, whether in Latin America, Yugoslavia or elsewhere in the world, that may just be enough to make them think again.

The author is the communications director at Amnesty International UK.

# Airline accidents: fighting against the laws of gravity

## Compensation is limited for inflight incidents, says Farrol Kahn

The Warsaw Convention is on the flipside of every airline ticket, yet it is one of international travel's best-kept secrets. Few passengers realise that if they are injured or killed while travelling on an international flight, the treaty severely limits their ability to recover damages.

Neither can surviving relatives succeed in winning damages unless willful misconduct on the part of the carrier is established. The Warsaw Convention is an anachronism no longer relevant to the modern needs of the airline industry. Seventy years ago, the multilateral treaty set out two primary goals. The first was to obtain a degree of uniformity with documentation, tickets and liability rules that govern aviation travel. The second was to limit the potential liability of the infant aviation industry in accidents that involve personal injury or death to passengers in exchange for limiting the carrier's defenses.

A major surprise was the recent \$3 million award in damages in the *Krys v Lufthansa* case concerning a passenger who had a heart attack during a flight. In normal circumstances, such a case is usually dismissed by judges in motions of summary judgment. For example, when a passenger'socardium is punctured through normal air pressure changes during landing, it is not considered an accident and the convention does not apply. There has been no negligence, so the case is dismissed. Most cases involving the convention are settled out of court, by applying the \$75,000 cap.

This may now change because of the lawsuit against Lufthansa. It was won on the basis that the aircrew did not adequately attend to a passenger during an inflight emergency.

On a transatlantic flight from Miami to Frankfurt, Leonard Krys, a travel agent, became ill and manifested symptoms of a heart attack. A doctor who examined him told the flight attendant "There is nothing to worry about", and no need to make an emergency landing.

Several hours later, when the

aircraft was over Amsterdam the doctor noticed that the symptoms had changed. He informed the cabin crew that Mr Krys was suffering from cardiac arrest.

On his return to Miami, Mr Krys sued the airline. Tod Aronovitz, his lawyer, claimed that the airline was negligent in failing to take reasonable measures to determine the plaintiff's condition, which caused a permanent defect to his heart wall. A federal magis-

trate judge held that the passenger had shown classic symptoms described by the American Medical Association and the airline manual, while the aircraft was still close to the US East Coast.

Lufthansa defended the case on the basis that the alleged incident was an "accident" under the Warsaw Convention, and therefore should be limited to \$75,000 damages. But the Appeals Court affirmed that though some contradictory evidence existed, the judge's choice between the permissible alternatives "is not clear error". The US Supreme Court denied the petition and Dr Wolf Muller-Rosin of Lufthansa is convinced that the Warsaw Convention should have applied. "The decision is incorrect", he says.

This landmark case sets a precedent. The fact that a doctor volunteers his skill to help a sick passenger does not relieve an aircrew of its responsibilities. Another development is the new IATA inter-carrier agreement whereby damages paid out for death and injury have been raised to a minimum of \$150,000 a passenger. Previously, liability limits worked in favour of the airline and any legal challenges got bogged down for years. John Romans of Kupfer, Rosen and Herz, New York, says: "Now the burden of proof has shifted to the opposite side, and all liability limitations, as recoverable compensation damages, are waived". American aviation lawyers believe that the Swissair disaster off Nova Scotia on September 3 could result in the biggest payout ever to result from an air crash because of the large number of Americans involved — 136 — and the US litigation process. Frank Fleming of Kreindler & Kreindler, New York, says: "If the victim is a young doctor and you need to compensate the wife and children, they can expect to collect between \$8 million and \$10 million."

Should 30 per cent of the passengers on Flight 111 fall into that category, compensation could exceed Pan Am's payout of \$314 million after the Lockerbie disaster. Already the first US lawsuit has been filed by Jake LaMotta, whose son died in the crash, for \$50 million in compensatory damages and another \$75 million in punitive damages.

With such figures entering the lists at the beginning of the litigation proceedings, the final damage claims could go through the billion-dollar barrier. A big rise in aviation insurance premiums could also be expected. With the prospect of huge litigation bills and increased insurance premiums, airlines may be forced to abandon the Warsaw Convention. Lee Kreindler says: "The truth of the matter is that the Warsaw Convention is dead."

The author is director of the Aviation Health Institute.

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BOWLS

England caught in fixture muddle

By David Rhys Jones

THE scheduling of a big outdoor event during the British indoor season has caused problems for the organisers of the women's home international indoor series, which will be staged in Belfast from March 16 to 18 next year.

The announcement yesterday of the England team to play in the Atlantic Rim Games outdoors in Cape Town from March 20 to 28 revealed that five key players - Catherine Anton, Jean Baker, Katherine Hawes, Mary Price and Norma Shaw - will be missing from the team to contest the annual series in Northern Ireland. Baker has been given the singles berth, ahead of Price.

Nancy Colling, the secretary of England's outdoor association and the immediate past president of the International Women's Bowling Board, was quick to point out that the players will have a choice. If they prefer to go to Belfast, a further selection will have to be made.

Hilary King, the Welsh indoor secretary, claims that the Wales indoor side will be deprived of three of their skips as well as one of their best leads and said: "No one told us that this outdoor event would be played at the height of the indoor season."

"It would have been nice if we had been kept informed, but there was no consultation. The whole thing is bitterly disappointing."

Wales are the holders of the Atlantic Rim title, having triumphed at home in Llandrindod Wells last year, and it is understandable that they have picked a strong side in a bid to hold on to the No 1 spot.

ENGLAND: Singles: J Baker (Dorset), P Price (Kent) and M Price (Buckinghamshire), Triples: N Shaw (Durham), F Fourie (Hampshire), A Anton, S Shaw, M Manager: N May (Cornwall). WALES: Singles: B Morgan (Llandrindod Wells), P Price (Kent), R Jones (Black Stafford), Triples: K Pearson (Barrow), J Wilson (Telford), M Morgan, F Fourie, Sutherland, Pearson, Wason, Jones, Manager: G M Rice (Sophie Gardens).

Ferrier in a class of his own

Matthew Pryor reports on a schoolboy on his way to the top

Tom Ferrier dreams of becoming the Formula One world champion. Like the young drivers he competes against, he craves the fame, wealth and, most of all, winning and being the best driver in the world. Ferrier is only 16, but he is heading very much in the right direction.

"I'd love to make it to Formula One," he said. "I want to be on the starting grid at Silverstone in five or six years." Yet these are not idle dreams. He has attracted much attention already from senior figures in motor racing. Creighton Brown, the co-founder of McLaren International in 1980 and the man who brought Ayrton Senna to McLaren, is among those who say that Ferrier has phenomenal talent.

"I have watched many young drivers, including more than one who eventually became a Formula One champion, with precisely the same attributes I now see in Tom," Brown said. "When you see someone like Tom, you know he's got it. He's very, very good."

Ferrier, who lives with his parents in Bletchingly, north of Gatwick, does not come from a motor-racing family. His father, Nigel, is a successful marketing man and his mother, Sheila, is a secretary in a local private school.

His obsession with the sport began at his 10th birthday party, when he and a group of friends were treated to a trip to a kart track in Weybridge. Tom was immediately hooked.

Not that his school work has since suffered. He missed only two days of schooling last year and passed ten GCSEs at Oxford County School, where he is now studying an advanced GNVQ in Business Studies. However, this year, with international commitments in his Formula



Ferrier with his car at Donington. He became hooked on motor sport after a trip to a kart track on his birthday

A Karting event and Formula Opel testing, he will be away from school more often.

Ferrier's headmaster is understanding, but his mother is not. She keeps his feet on the ground. "My mum decides where the cut-off point is between schoolwork and racing," Ferrier said.

Motor racing is not a poor man's pursuit. Ferrier Sr estimates his son's annual karting budget to be £30,000. A season in Formula Opel costs £150,000. The sport does not become profitable until you reach Formula One.

Ferrier has wasted little time making his mark. At 14, at Silverstone, he broke the

most to guide the youngster, having employed Rubens Barrichello in the team as a 17-year-old when he first came over from Brazil.

"If I didn't think he was capable, he wouldn't be in my car," Costa said. "He has made a fantastic start and fitted in perfectly with the team."

If confirmation of his burgeoning talent were needed, Ferrier recently won a Vauxhall Scholarship. He was chosen ahead of 100 young drivers by a panel of judges composed of motor-racing drivers.

His reward is a free race in the Vauxhall Junior Winter Series. He has also lived up

to Costa's high expectations by breaking into the top ten in the second Formula Opel race of the winter season at Hockenheim.

Ferrier is philosophical about what his advances mean. "I'm here to learn," he said. "It is hard realising you can't win because the people I'm up against are so much more experienced, but things are going well - every session I go out and seem to go faster."

Looking every inch the young professional, Ferrier stands in the pits at Donington. Costa and the engineers crack a now familiar joke. They point to a sign "Warning - the pits and pitlane are areas of potential danger. Children under the age of 16 years should not be allowed in these areas."

A quietly confident Tom Ferrier just smiles.

"If I didn't think he was capable, he would not be in my car. He's fitted in perfectly"

ICE SKATING

Main must jump over extra hurdle

By Angela Court

UNTIL the past couple of seasons, a national title almost certainly guaranteed a skater a place in the next European and world championships, but with the sport evolving rapidly and potential sponsors often needing strong results at international level to justify involvement, that is no longer the case.

Stephanie Main, who won her third British women's championship at Milton Keynes last Saturday, is yet to be named for the one place available to Great Britain in both championships. Instead, the National Ice Skating Association (NISA) will hold a screening session next month for Main, along with Tammy Sear and Zoe Jones, the second and third-placed skaters at the national championships, and will make four different triple jumps the criteria for selection.

The association did not send a woman to the European or world championships last year and is trying to raise standards by insisting that triple jumps must be performed.

Kevin Bursey, the NISA national performance director, admits the decision may not be popular, but insists it is the way forward. "Our women have to be able to do triple jumps," he said. "There's little point in sending people to top championships who are lovely skaters but cannot jump."

"Basically, you are not going to get anywhere if you can't do the tricks and we want that message to get through - not just to the seniors, but to the up-and-coming juniors, too."

Main, 22, landed two triple jumps during her free programme on Saturday. Afterwards, she admitted that she had another triple planned, but reduced it to a double, adding that in practice she has been pulling off five.

"I haven't put them in the

programme yet," she said. "but I'm confident I can do them in the future."

There are two places available for men at both events and Clive Shorten, the new champion, has been named as one representative. Neil Wilson, champion in 1996, who was forced to withdraw last week because of a leg injury, will be screened to check on his progress.

The pairs selection is also on hold. Marsha Poluniaschenko and Andrew Seabrook won their second title last Friday, but not without making several mistakes in the process. NISA officials want to wait and see how they perform at



Main: kept in suspense

the world junior championships in Zagreb next week before making a decision.

Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, the Slough-based ice dance champions, have no worries. They have been named for both events and will be looking to improve on their placing last year, when they made their debut at this level.

One event where Britain will have a full team is in Zagreb. The latest addition is Jennifer Holmes, 14, from Murrayfield, who finished a promising fourth in the senior women's event at Milton Keynes.

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FOOTBALL

Hendrie is unruffled by elevation to the top

By Matt Dickinson

SPORT can be a fickle profession... Hendrie is unruffled by elevation to the top... At 21, Hendrie thought that life could not get any better...



Hendrie, left, who has become a key player in the Aston Villa side, shares a joke with his England colleagues yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

West Ham lead the field in pursuit of Holligan

By Russell Kempson

WEST Ham United are close to signing Gavin Holligan, 18, the Kingstonian striker... 'We've been watching him for some time,' Peter Storr...

Cove provide some nourishing fare

With standards rising again in the Highland League, Walter Gammie reports on clubs' long-term hopes

The man slipping through a side door at Allan Park with a tray of meat pies... The match at Cove Rangers was called off at half-time because some players were suffering from hypothermia...

Bonnyman inspired a rip-roaring run last season to make it five... The Highland League was formed in Inverness in 1993... Peterhead, installed a year ago in a new stadium, would dearly love a pyramid of progress to be established...

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Table with 10 columns: Club, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists teams like Cove Rangers, Peterhead, Hurlly, Fraserburgh, Clachnacuddin, Keith, Egin City, Lossiemouth, Deveronvale, Broxburn, Farnham, Wick Academy, Buchan Thistle, Rothay, Nairn County, Fort William.

BADMINTON: WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION TESTS POSITIVE FOR STEROIDS

Sigit suspended and fined over drugs

By Richard Eaton

BUDIARTO SIGIT, one of the game's leading players, has been suspended for 13 months and fined more than \$12,000... Candra Wijaya, his playing partner, were tested in August...

length of time in the early nineties after taking a performance-enhancing substance... Sigit's misconduct is particularly annoying for the International Badminton Federation (IBF)...

'This is particularly disappointing because it involves a tournament winner and a world champion... The IBF supports the IOC's attempt to broaden the scope of actions that can be taken against doping...

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Advertisement for KEENE on CHESS. Includes text by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, and a chess board diagram showing a new gambit.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

A collection of various legal notices, including public notices, legal notices, trustee acts, and international lottery notices.

Advertisement for WORD-WATCHING by Philip Howard. Includes a list of words and definitions related to bridge and general knowledge.

Advertisement for WINNING MOVE by Raymond Keene. Includes a chess board diagram and text about a winning move in a game.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring 'McCo to exam' and 'TITANI FOR J'.

RACING: ENFORCED BREAK OFFERS CHAMPION JOCKEY OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS WHIP PROBLEM

McCoy given chance to examine technique

AN 18-DAY suspension for Tony McCoy, until now the most impressive National Hunt champion in living memory, yesterday sharpened the horns of racing's most awkward dilemma: is the whip a vital tool of the trade, or a spanner in the works of its image and future prosperity? How ironic that an instrument designed to assist equilibrium and momentum should have so contrasting an effect on the sport, which has rarely conducted its great debate with such acerbity.



McCoy's all-action riding style has won both admirers and enemies

NEWTON ABBOT THUNDERER 1.00 RED EBRELL (nap), 1.30 Collier Bay, 2.00 Robert's Toy, 2.30 Mister Blake, 3.00 Native Fling, 3.30 The Hatcher, 4.00 Molly Fitz Lad.

GOING: SOFT SIS 1.00 WISHFUL THINKING SELLING HURDLE (£1,786; 2m 11) (9 runners) 1 P SP SPRINT UP 19 (B.D.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 201

1.30 MOLESWORTH ARMS HOTEL WADEBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE (£3,081; 2m 11) (4) 1 2-2 COLLIER BAY 12 (B.D.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 201

2.00 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,738; 2m 10) (5) 1 2-2 NAME OF OUR FATHER 32 (B.D.S.) P Brown 5-10-4 ... W Morrison 117

2.30 CLAUDE WHITLEY MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£3,388; 3m 21) (10) (8) 1 2-6 WELFARE 190 (B.D.S.) R Fries 8-10-2 ... G Frost 111

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Table with columns for race name, runner number, name, jockey, and time. Includes sections for Leicester, Plumpton, and Wolverhampton.

3.00 DEVON NOVICES HURDLE (£2,201; 2m 10) (5) 1 1 NADIAL 111 (B.D.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... M P Fitzgerald 117

3.30 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,134; 2m 5) (10) (12) 1 P1A PEARL'S CHOICE 172 (B.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... M P Fitzgerald 117

4.00 BOUNDRIES INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,236; 2m 10) (16) 1 P1A BEAU 197 (B.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... M P Fitzgerald 117

MARTIN PIPE, who saddled Cyfor Malta to win the Murphys Gold Cup three days ago, relies on Northern Starlight in the £45,000-added First National Bank Gold Cup Chase at Ascot on Saturday. William Hill bets 4-1 Irbee, 9-2 Don't Give Up, 10-1 Red Karamazov, 7-1 Chief's Song, 8-1 Hurricane Lamp, 10-1 Ashwell Boy, 10-1 Tommy, 10-1 Raging Natives, 12-1 Karakka, 14-1 Northern Starlight, 16-1 Skyeb, 25-1 Hoh Warrior.

THUNDERER 12.20 Royal Roulette, 12.50 My Mother's Dream, 1.20 Redoubt, 1.50 Mister Jagger, 2.20 Silver Sun, 2.50 Ehabub, 3.20 Topton, 3.50 Mr Speaker.

12.20 PARTIES IN THE PAVILION AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£1,737; 1m 40) (18 runners) 1 0024 FAIS 12 (B.S.) G Lewis 6-11-7 ... D H Donnan 7 14

12.50 CHRISTMAS RACE NIGHTS SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O; £1,737; 7) (10) 1 4000 CESAR WELLS 26 (B.S.) G Lewis 6-11-7 ... M Day 6

1.20 GET YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP NOW NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £2,829; 1m) (10) 1 2190 ACHLES STAR 10 (B.S.) K Burke 9-11-7 ... A Clark 4

1.50 CONTACT SALES & MARKETING HANDICAP (£2,085; 5) (10) 1 0089 YOUNG BHR 3 (B.S.) P Pears 3-10-0 ... F Horne 3

RICHARD EVANS Nap: RANDO HARVEST (3:10 Wetherby) New best: Ghigi Ekebach (2:30 Newton Abbot)

2.20 POLYGRAM CLASSICS MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1; 3-Y-O; £2,437; 1m 20) (10) 1 0000 DIRT 5 (B.S.) R Brown 9-0-0 ... G Carter 2

2.50 POLYGRAM CLASSICS MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1; 3-Y-O; £2,424; 1m 20) (10) 1 5200 ANASTASIAN 4 (B.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... Dean Middleton 4

3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (Div 1; £2,476; 7) (12) 1 2000 HAVERTY 5 (B.S.) G Brown 5-10-0 ... M Day 12

3.50 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (Div 1; £2,476; 7) (11) 1 6600 BEY WISH 5 (B.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... S Dwyer 9

COURSE SPECIALISTS LINGFIELD: Trainers: Mrs A Perrot, 4 winners from 18 runners, 22.2% J...

1.10 HENDERSON INSURANCE BROKERS LTD. JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O; £2,945; 2m) (10 runners) 101 DANERMAN 20 (B.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... R Bantley 1

1.40 COOLMORE STUD NOVICES CHASE (£3,444; 3m 10) (6 runners) 201 49411 MASTER MOOD 17 (B.S.) G Lewis 6-11-7 ... M P Fitzgerald 117

2.10 SPINAL RESEARCH TRUST CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,408; 2m 4) (11) (runners) 301 342213 CANTON VENTURE 42 (B.S.) G Lewis 6-11-7 ... D H Donnan 7 14

2.40 WITSUNSHIRE MOBILE PHONES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,950; 2m) (5 runners) 401 333-0 CAMRAN CHALLENGER 17 (B.S.) G Lewis 6-11-7 ... M P Fitzgerald 117

3.10 PETER BEAUMONT OWNERS HANDICAP CHASE [SHOWCASE] (£3,556; 3m 11) (8 runners) 201 011-12 RANDOM HARVEST 24 (B.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... M A Dwyer 9

3.40 FRENCH BALLERINA NOVICES HURDLE (TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£3,281; 19) (runners) 601 001P REVERSE CHARGE 115 (B.S.) G Lewis 6-11-7 ... F Leahy 61

TITANIC POSTER FOR JUST £2.99 Today The Times offers readers the chance to buy a superb exclusive Titanic title chart which measures approximately 450mm x 1000mm. This fascinating chart chart which measures approximately 450mm x 1000mm. This fascinating chart chart which measures approximately 450mm x 1000mm.

THE TIMES DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO THE TITANIC DISASTER FINDING THE WRECK. Includes a large map of the Atlantic Ocean showing the Titanic's path and the location of the wreck.

SPORT 51. Includes various racing results and news snippets. At the bottom, there is an advertisement for RACELINE, a horse training and racing information service, with contact details and a phone number.

CRICKET

Croft and Mullally combine to snatch win

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN CAIRNS

CAIRNS (final day of four): England XI beat Queensland by one wicket

THE benefits of winning a match of this nature can never be properly measured, but for the sake of unity, confidence and generally feeling good before the start of a Test series, it is a whole lot better than losing — especially when the victory reeks of a cussedness of spirit that it is fashionable, in these parts, to consider exclusively Australian.

England might easily have lost all four of their warm-up fixtures, but instead they remain unbeaten, having stolen this game through an implausibly prolonged last-wicket partnership between Robert Croft and Alan Mullally.

It would be a deception to report that England flew down the Queensland coastline to Brisbane light of heart and free of cares. No matter the drama and daring of this win, the problems at the other end of their batting order are causing deep concern.

Their opening batsmen mustered three runs between them here and Michael Atherton's appointment with a back specialist today was weighing heavily on minds other than his own. Yet both Atherton and Mark Butcher, his toiling partner, joined freely in the

moments of team bonding that followed a quite remarkable match.

Atherton, still optimistic of being fit for the first Test on Friday but resigned to accepting medical advice, calmly put the event into context. "You always want to win," he said, "but pitch conditions here are very different from what we will expect in Brisbane, so I wouldn't read too much into it."

The conditions to which England have acclimatised well, however, are the Queensland heat and humidity, so challenging here that normal dress standards are unenforceable. "We are usually chilling in Hobart before the first Test out here, so this will have done us a lot of good," Atherton said.

Although unable to field on Sunday, he was pressed into service yesterday, as always seemed unavoidable, when England resumed needing 68 runs from their remaining five wickets on a pitch now resembling crazy paving.

When Mark Ramprakash became the latest of many to be out misjudging a pull, Atherton emerged from the players' tent at a brisk pace that suggested he had a point to prove. However, he did not bat very long or very well and, after surviving confident ap-



Croft hits out during his last-wicket stand with Mullally that brought England victory over Queensland. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

peals to each of his first two balls, he was out to the seventh, shuffling down the pitch to the spin of Jackson and giving Healy a straightforward stumping.

Dean Headley, who had played some combative strokes in making 20, was eventually too late coming down on a good-length ball from the waspish Michael Kasprovic, whose second-innings performance had ensured his presence in the Australia Test squad. Kasprovic quickly cleaned up Darren Gough for his sixth wicket to leave England 106 for nine.

With 36 runs required, a size of partnership achieved only four times in the game, the

odds against England were so long that the scoreboard operators did not even bother putting up Mullally's name. His pace remained blank for the 78 minutes it took Croft and himself to confound logic.

For almost an hour, they undertook nothing but reconnaissance. While ten runs were scored from 14 overs, there was a sense of merely delaying the inevitable. Then Andy Bichel dropped a ball short and Mullally pulled with relish, the four taking the total to 120 and bringing a rousing chorus of cheers from the England tent.

Lunch, an interval that had seemed unlikely to be necessary, was taken with 4 still

needed, an assignment completed with the minimum of fuss. Mullally, a character to whom stress is a stranger, was a revelation, pulling and driving with admirable control, but it was Croft who took the winning single off Kasprovic and punched the air in delight.

For Croft, whose technique was exposed by Glenn McGrath in England in 1997, every such innings is a minor personal triumph, but he was keen to stress its value to the team. "Look at the last Ashes series," he said. "There wasn't much between the two top sixes in terms of runs, but there was probably 300 or so difference between their bottom five and ours."

Mullally, who is patiently enjoying every moment of this tour after a summer with unbeaten Leicestershire, said: "I badly wanted to win this. I haven't been on the losing side in a first-class game for a long time and I don't intend to start now. If the last three or four batsmen can each make 20 or so, it will turn games."

Croft spoke passionately of the work that he has put in with Graham Gooch over the past year to eliminate his soft dismissals against the short ball. He spoke, too, of his hope that the selectors will decide that a spin bowler is essential in Brisbane, a thorny issue that even his tenacity with the bat here cannot have resolved.

SCOREBOARD: QUEENSLAND: First Innings 209 (A Healy 57). Second Innings 124. ENGLAND XI: First Innings 192 (A J Stewart 52, A C Dale 7 for 23). Second Innings 106. M A Bichel lbw b Bichel 0, D C Gooch lbw b Dale 28, N Hussain lbw b Kasprovic 24, J P Crawley b Kasprovic 4, M Ramprakash c Bichel b Kasprovic 4, D W Headley b Kasprovic 20, M A Atherton c Healy b Jackson 11, R D Croft not out 15, D Gough b Kasprovic 0, A D Mullally not out 23, Extras (b 1, lb 10) 11. Total (b wickets) 228. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-45, 3-45, 4-51, 5-74, 6-88, 7-101, 8-104, 9-106. BOWLING: Bichel 9-1-32-1, Dale 12-5-23-1, Kasprovic 18-2-51-6, Jackson 21-7-40-1, Symonds 1-0-5-0. Umpires: A J McQuillan and S J Tausel.

Gillespie earns Test recall

FROM ALAN LEE



Gillespie quality control

JASON GILLESPIE'S most recent Test match appearance was made 15 months ago in Nottingham, a dramatic week in which the Ashes were settled and Michael Atherton's resignation as England captain was refused. Three injuries and much frustration later, Gillespie was recalled yesterday to share the new ball with Glenn McGrath in the first Test starting in Brisbane on Friday.

The Australia selectors might have opted for any of several alternatives, none more compelling than Paul Reffel, whose dependability is so respected by England. Instead, they have ignored the doubts about Gillespie's match-fitness and backed his undoubted qualities of pace and control, which were so evident in the South Australia match against England last week.

Trevor Hohns, the chairman of selectors, emerged from a telephone conference with his two colleagues, Allan Border and Andrew Hilditch, to name him as the most contentious member of a party of 12. Damien Fleming, who is carrying a slight back injury, and Michael Kasprovic will contest the third seam bowling place, with Stuart MacGill continuing as leg-spin understudy for Shane Warne. Ricky Ponting will bat at No 6 in preference to Darren Lehmann.

Warne looks to be some way off a Test recall after shoulder surgery, finishing with disappointing match figures of one for 74 on his first-class comeback for Victoria.

Perils of playing strain game

BY DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

ATHERTON'S back, like that of Graham Thorpe and Alec Stewart, is as vulnerable as that of thousands of other cricketers, whether playing at Lord's or on the village green. When it flexes, the spine does not rely upon an individual hinge joint, like a knee, and therefore bends and twists only within a limited range. Pushing it beyond its natural capabilities sets up unsustainable stresses. Something has to give and it is usually the disc between the spinal bones.

When humans evolved to stand upright, all sorts of activities became possible. We could make weapons and tools, hunt — and play cricket. The eyes, hands and spine adapted to the new status, although the spine remained a vulnerable link in the new order. This potential

weakness is particularly apparent during pregnancy, when lifting and when playing cricket and golf. The spine is especially at risk from awkward twisting and striking movements in either sport. Bowlers, too, have trouble. The pounding each of the individual joints of the spine receives as the leading foot hits the ground sends shock waves through them that may damage the discs or, over the years, cause osteoarthritis of the joint surfaces.

The MRI scanner has revealed the truth about backs. Until the introduction of this advanced diagnostic tool, which enables soft-tissue damage, including disc injuries, to be seen, a myriad unlikely diagnoses were provided to account for backache. Usually,

this is the result of harm to a disc so that it protrudes because of herniation of the nucleus of the disc through the tough outer fibres. It is notable that Thorpe, who has had surgery for proven disc problems, and Atherton, who has had disc troubles since being at Cambridge, both are aware of the underlying condition of their spine. Stewart's pains have been attributed to muscle spasms. Muscles always go into spasm when a prolapsed disc touches a nerve. Muscle spasm may therefore be secondary to the damaged disc.

Atherton will probably find that, over the years, unless he has surgery, a lesser degree of trauma caused by over-exertion will "put his back out", but the symptoms will subside more quickly. He will be playing again before long.



Hooper: made century

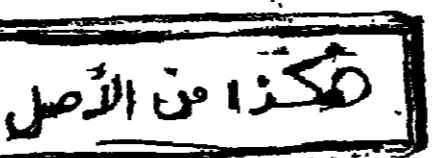
INTEREST RATES WITH EFFECT FROM 17TH NOVEMBER 1998. FLEMING Premier Banking. Table with columns: Account Balance, Net % PA, Net % AER, Gross % PA, Gross % AER. Rows include Investment Account, Saver & Prosper Investment Account, Premier Account, Classic Account, Corporate Account, Check Account, Savings 30, Saver & Prosper Reward 30, Asset 30, Thrift Account, Higher Rate Deposit Account.

TODAY'S FIXTURES. FOOTBALL: European under-21 championship, Under-21 International, England v Czech Republic, Nationwide League, Third division, FA Cup, First round, Darlington v Burnley, Football Conference, Doncaster v Barrow, Youth v Kettering, UNIBOND LEAGUE, DR MARTENS LEAGUE, ISTHMIAN LEAGUE, RYFAN LEAGUE, AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION, PONTING LEAGUE, RUGBY UNION: Edinburgh Ravens v South Africa XV, BASKETBALL: Sainsbury's Classic, TENNIS: British national championships.

BASKETBALL: Giants pin hopes on fit Perry. BY NICHOLAS HARLING. The fitness of Makeeba Perry could have a big influence on the outcome of the most intriguing quarter-final tomorrow when Thames Valley Tigers attempt to prolong the defence of their Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup.

SPORT IN BRIEF: French announce new anti-doping measures. CYCLING: French administrators have stepped up the battle against drugs by announcing that 500 of the country's riders will be tested next year. JORDAN sign new deal. MOTOR RACING: Jordan, the Formula One team, have signed a lucrative deal with Warburg, Pincus, the investment company. AYR'S Czech booking. ICE HOCKEY: Ayr Scottish Eagles will qualify for the second round of the Skoda European League if they can win away to Chemopetrol Litvinov. STREAKER reveals identity. RUGBY UNION: The streaker who was blamed for breaking the concentration of Wales in their match with South Africa at Wembley on Saturday was a Springboks fan.

Wales faith Wembley nearly. THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17 1998. RUGBY. Wembley nearly. Wales faith. The streaker who was blamed for breaking the concentration of Wales in their match with South Africa at Wembley on Saturday was a Springboks fan. He ran on to the pitch and held up the game for three minutes when the scores were level at 20-20. This allowed South Africa to clear their lines before Andre Venter scored the match-winning try. The man was later cautioned and released without charge.





AMERICAN FOOTBALL: UNFANCIED ATLANTA SEND TREMOR THROUGH SAN FRANCISCO

Falcons soar to new heights

By Oliver Holt

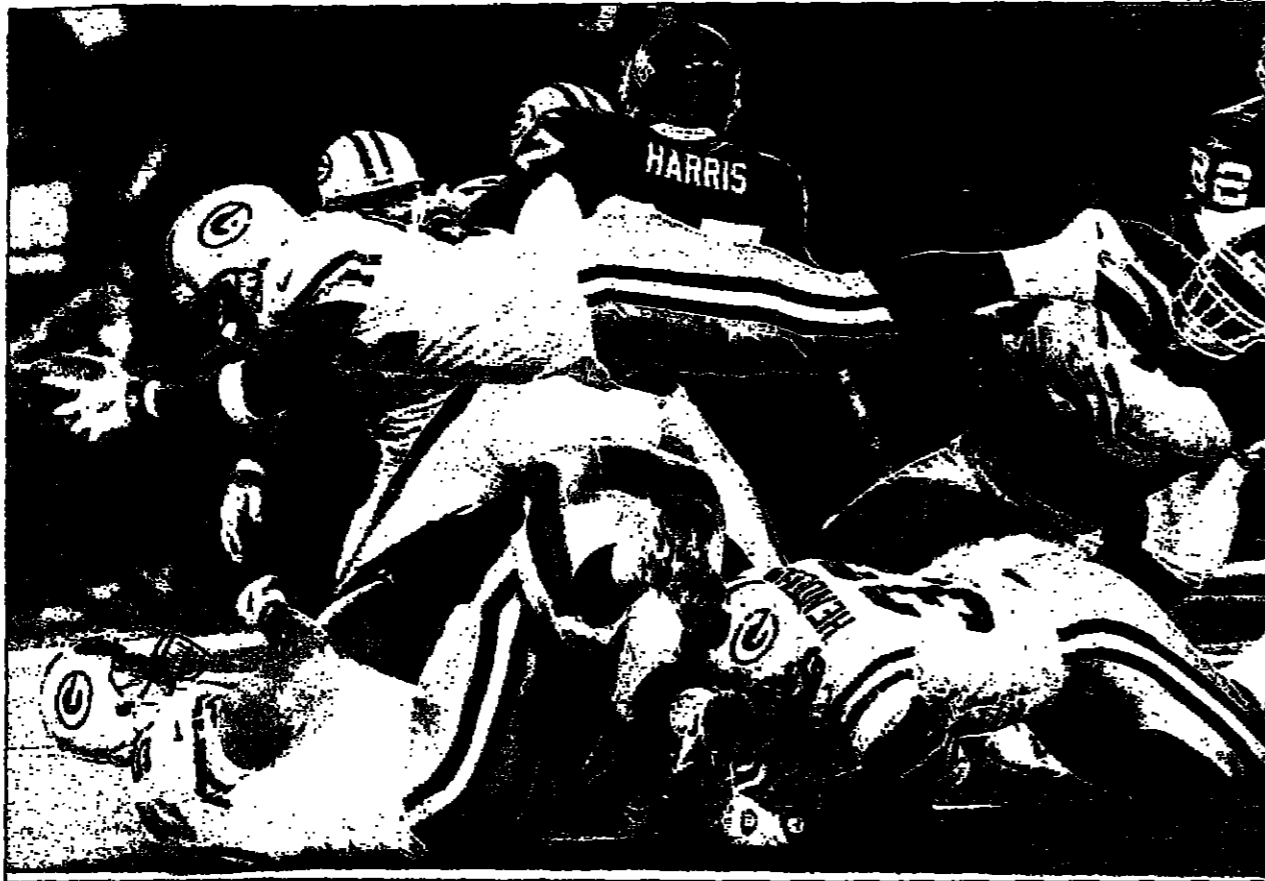
DAN REEVES, the Atlanta Falcons coach, had told his players that they would remain second-class citizens of the National Football League (NFL) until they could beat their more celebrated divisional rivals, the San Francisco 49ers.

Atlanta's convincing 31-19 win over the 49ers in the rarefied atmosphere of the Georgia Dome emphasised the latest shifts in the ever-changing topography of the NFL in general and the National Football Conference (NFC) in particular.

Atlanta's convincing 31-19 win over the 49ers in the rarefied atmosphere of the Georgia Dome emphasised the latest shifts in the ever-changing topography of the NFL in general and the National Football Conference (NFC) in particular.

The 49ers have won 13 of the past 17 NFC West titles, but their defeat by the Falcons on Sunday meant that they slipped to second place in the table for the first time this season.

Steve Young, the increasingly world-weary San Francisco quarterback, was sacked four times by the Falcons defense, one of which led to a fumble and an Atlanta touchdown.



Darick Holmes, the Green Bay Packers running back, dives into the end zone for a touchdown against the New York Giants

turnover." Steve Mariucci, the San Francisco coach, said, "We have a team that can come back from a deficit, but we need to stop putting ourselves in a position where we are playing catch-up all the time."

Even though Young managed to orchestrate a fourth-quarter rally, Atlanta sealed the match when Chris Chandler, their quarterback, threw a pass to Terance Mathis, the

wide receiver, who escaped the attentions of R.W. McQuarters, the 49ers cornerback, to complete the touchdown.

Reeves, who took the Denver Broncos to three Super Bowl appearances and coached the New York Giants before moving to Atlanta, has another winning side on his hands. "I'm really proud of our team," he said. "It was exciting having a sell-out crowd in here today. The differ-

ence between winning and losing in this league can be so small and the supporters made the difference."

With the Denver Broncos idle, the Vikings improved their record to 9-1 when they crushed the Cincinnati Bengals 24-3. The biggest surprise of the weekend was the Indianapolis Colts' win over the New York Jets, but the best individual performances came in the Dallas Cowboys' 35-28 victory

over the Arizona Cardinals. Jake Plummer, the Cardinals quarterback, threw for 465 yards and three touchdowns, but was still overshadowed by Emmitt Smith, the Dallas running back.

Smith scored three touchdowns to move ahead of two of the greatest names in the sport, Jim Brown and Walter Payton, into third place in all-time touchdowns list. He now has 127.

TENNIS: RESURGENT GRAF SEEKS GARDEN PARTY WITH THIRD SUCCESSIVE TITLE

Hingis thinks big in chase to the finish

The holidays are just one week away and the egos and the injuries have rolled into town for the Chase Championships, the end-of-term jamboree that sorts out the best from the rest.

Lindsay Davenport knows that she has only to win her first-round match tomorrow, against Sandrine Testud, for her to finish the year as world No 1.

fina Hingis, the No 2, has an awful lot of work to do to overtake her. Should Davenport lose, Hingis must win the title, beating Mary Pierce, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Jana Novotna to gain maximum bonus points.

This year, Hingis has struggled with the players she describes as "the big girls" and she does not enjoy having to look up to them, in every sense. "Their bodies are bigger than mine and they've worked on themselves," Hingis said. "I have to be more clever and faster than them."

"Sometimes when you're over-confident, you lose your focus," she said, although she also pointed out that a little

humiliation can sharpen the resolve. "It does bug me being No 2," she said. "Right now, Lindsay is better than me and I want to beat her. I don't have this feeling about anyone else."

"When you are used to being a champion, it's like a drug - you want to be there again and again. I haven't won a tournament since May and, believe me, it would be nice to walk away from 1998 with a win."

Walking, however, seems to be an increasingly difficult task for many of the players after 11 months on the road. Venus Williams' knee served only to carry her out of the tournament before it had begun. Testud's knees are not much better. Novotna is getting over a bad back, Hingis is doing the same with her ankle while Steffi Graf, whose body appears to have been held together with string and Sello tape for the past few years, is coming back after wrist surgery.

To make matters worse, she had to have treatment on her back while she was beating

Davenport in the final of the WTA Tour event in Philadelphia on Sunday.

Still, Graf is on a roll. She has won two consecutive tournaments since her return and last week trounced Hingis, by winning on Sunday, she became the first unseeded player to beat the world No 1 and No 2 in a week, not that Graf is your run-of-the-mill unseeded nobody.

On the rare occasions this year when she has been fit enough to play, she has had the better of Davenport, her possible semi-final opponent, beating her on the way to the title in New Haven during the summer as well as on Sunday. She opens her account today against Novotna. For Graf, at least, after a year of sitting on the sidelines, the holidays can wait - it is time for battle to commence.

RANKINGS

Tim Henman has climbed a place to No 9 in the world rankings, equalling his highest placing. Greg Rusedjki remains at No 11.

NEWS WORLD RANKINGS: 1. S. Pietrangeli (USA) 3,703 pts, 2. M. Roca (Chile) 3,670, 3. P. Rafter (AUS) 3,515, 4. A. Panatta (ITA) 2,875, 5. C. Harewood (GB) 2,810, 6. A. Cornea (RO) 2,785, 7. R. Kuznetsov (RUS) 2,779, 8. R. Novotna (CZE) 2,540, 9. T. Henman (GB) 2,521, 10. V. Kulevskiy (RUS) 2,485, 11. G. Rusedjki (GB) 2,452, 12. G. Lendl (CZE) 2,137, 13. P. Rosta (CRO) 2,114, 14. A. Gattuso (ITA) 1,822, 15. M. Tomicic (CRO) 1,792, 16. J. H. Lumsden (USA) 1,774, 17. T. Johansson (SWE) 1,761, 18. C. Panatta (ITA) 1,710, 19. J. Gimeno (ESP) 1,682, 20. P. McEnroe (USA) 1,643.

PAULLIAC  
b) Claret produced in Pauillac. Pauillac is the name of a commune in the department of the Gironde in France. It produces a superior claret.

ROGUER  
(c) A person employed to identify and eliminate inferior plants in a crop, especially of potatoes. A rogue potato is the same metaphor as a rogue elephant.

PECORINO  
(c) An Italian cheese made from ewes' milk. Pecorina is the Italian for sheep.

PONDOK  
(a) A hut or shack made of oddments of wood, corrugated iron, etc. A mean house or hovel, especially one inhabited by non-whites. The Afrikaans word, from the Malay.

ANSWER TO WINNING MOVE

1 Rxe5! fxe5; 2 Rxd5+! Kg7 (2 ... Bxd5; 3 Qf6 mate); 3 Qf6+ Kh7; 4 Qh4+ Kg7; 5 Ne6 checkmate.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Source: Paper & Paper Information Centre

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TELEVISION CHOICE

Leaving the lap of luxury

Back to the Floor  
BBC2, 9.00pm

The latest boss to experience life at his company's sharp end is Tony Fidgeley, a self-made multimillionaire whose wealth has come from building luxury homes. For the purposes of the film he goes to work on one of his building sites, a £300 million development in Central London which must be finished in five days.

Cutting Edge: Men At 50  
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Brian Hill's film is built around the thoughts and experiences of some of the 900 men born on the same day 50 years ago as the Prince of Wales. The group is so randomly chosen that almost the only thing in common apart from their birthdays is that none will ascend to the throne.

Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star  
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Bryan Eisley's drama of a Glasgow rock band continues to supply a lively mixture of good jokes and well-aimed jibes at the music industry.



Verge, a self-confessed old-fashioned man, features in Men at 50 (Channel 4, 9pm)

ked guitar solo in full view not only of his new recruit, the delectable Fiona (Simone Lahbib), but most of the neighbourhood. The running gag about young Jez being musically less subversive than his middle-aged, but still very heavy metal parents, continues to flourish.

Wrappers  
BBC2, 10.20pm

Breakfast cereals are the first topic for a series of ten-minute films exploring domestic life in Britain through popular brands. When today's average family has six boxes of cereal in the cupboard, it is hard to believe there was a time when the only breakfast was of the cooked variety.

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RADIO CHOICE

Wonderland Girls  
Radio 4, 11.30am

A new series of the office comedy by Marianne Carey set in Edinburgh, where the wheels of the nation's mighty life assurance industry grind and clatter. There is more clatter than grind at Lothian Rock Investments, whose marketing department works to an interesting philosophy: betrayal, criminal activities, tragic death and serious misconduct.

Afternoon Play: The Wrong Side of the River  
Radio 4, 1.15pm

Start of a trilogy of plays, running until Thursday, written by Mary Cooper and Peter Spafford and set on either side of a river in northern England, the water having a symbolic role in all three plays. The main characters are Carol and her daughter Kate (Lesley Nicol and Sarah Brigham), who live together one side of the river, and Jack (Cresty Henshall), who is Carol's father and lives on the other bank.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 4.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce, Chart hits 8.00 The Evening Session 10.00 Digital Planet 10.30 John Peel 12.00 The Breakfast 2.00am Clive Wilson 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Jeremy Kyle 7.00 Kate's Classical World 7.00 Nigel Ogden: News from the keyboard world 9.00 Right Monkey, Profile of Al Read, featuring his classic radio routines and interviews 10.00 Cole Porter: Night and Day (3/7) 10.30 Nicky Home 12.00 Katrina Leschichin 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast with Julian Worraker 6.00 Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruoco and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match: Russell Fuller presents coverage of the night's action 10.00 The Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Jon Collins and the Creature of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Jonathan Ross 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Han 7.30 Hamer Scott 10.00 Mark Forster 1.00am James Merritt 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

5.00am Bill Overton 8.00 The Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Chisholm 11.00am Katey 1.00pm Arva Rabum 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dooley 7.00 Nick Abbot 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creature of the Night

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes, includes Ravel (Soprano in G for two voices, viola da gamba and basso continuo, BWV253), Dvorak (Two Waltzes)  
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobbday, Schumann (Overture: Hermann and Dorothea), Villa-Lobos (Bachiana Brasileira No 5, 1st mvt), Poulenc (Autobus), Couperin (Troisamecon de sensuelite), Dvorak (Symphony No 8 in G, Op 88)  
10.30 Artist of the Week: Charles Mackerras presents a profile of Fanny Burney  
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Brahms  
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from Studio 1, Broadcasting House, Belfast, Ioachim Trio: Rebecca Hensch, violin, Caroline Desmarcy, cello, John Lanchlan, piano, Raymond (Piano Trio C, H XV 21), Dvorak (Piano Trio No 3 in F minor, Op 65)  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra's Ulster Orchestra under Vernon Handley and Takuo Yuasa, with Thomas Bowes, violin, Brahms (Tragic Overture), Parry (Elegy for Brahms), Brahms (Serenade No 2 in A), Szymanowski (Violin Concerto No 2), Schumann (Symphony No 3 in E flat, Rheinlied)

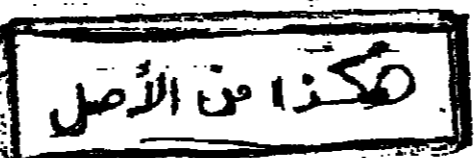
RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today with Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today Introduced by Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie, including Thought for the Day, with Awanard Das  
6.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament  
8.00 The Choice Michael Buerk profiles people who've made momentous decisions  
9.30 First Night's Sara Parker profiles a woman determined to fulfil her lifelong ambition to become a trapeze artist  
9.45 (LW) Daily Service  
9.45 (FM) Surtik Allstar Cooke: A Celebration  
10.00 (LW) News: Mark Hamer  
11.00 Nature: Bees in the Desert Gerry Northam traces the history and conservation of bees in Arizona's Sonoran Desert (I)  
11.30 Wonderland Girls Comedy drama following the departmental dilemmas in an Edinburgh insurance company, by Marianne Carey. See Choice (1/5)  
12.00 (FM) News  
12.00pm You and Yours: Tricia Rawlinson and Mark Whitaker present consumer investigations  
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke  
1.30 Quote - Unquote: Bill Cotton, Alison Mitchell, Peter Nicholls and Simon Williams put their wits in the question panel game. Chaired by Nigel Rees  
2.00 The Archers (I)  
2.15 The Wrong Side of the River The first of three plays by Mary Cooper and Peter Spafford, with Lesley Nicol and Sarah Brigham  
See Choice (1/5)  
3.00 The Exchange Call 0171-580 4444  
3.30 Revenant Ian Pasco asks whether revenge should ever be seen as divine retribution (2/5)

4.00 Voices with Ian Burnside (I)  
4.45 Music Machine The composer John Woolrich talks to Verity Sharp about his new cello concerto  
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty, including a report from Adelaide as Jeffrey Tails conducts the first Australian production of Wagner's Ring cycle  
7.45 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live from the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, continuing a season of chamber recitals, introduced by Linda Omitson, Peter Donohoe and Martin Roscoe. Organ: Peter Donohoe and Martin Roscoe, pianos: Arvensky (Suite No 1 in F, Op 15); Tchaikovsky, transcr Rachmaninov (Sleeping Beauty) 8.20 Adultery and Other Diversions: Four interval programmes in which novelist Tim Parks reads from his new collection of essays 8.40 Radio 3: The Man with a Gun (2/5)  
10.05 BBC Symphony Orchestra (Sounding the Century) Conductor Oloof Olsson, with Vadine Anderson, soprano, Berg (Suite: Lulu)  
10.45 Night Waves Richard Coles explores the history of music censorship and its existence today  
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the first of two programmes featuring Carol Kidd in performance  
12.00am Composer of the Week: Debussy (I)  
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod

3.45 Revenant - Jim's Angel by Kate Saunders  
4.00 A Good Read Sarah LeFanu invites the Rt Rev Peter Firth and Judith Palmer, literature officer at the South Bank Centre, to choose three favourite paperback  
4.30 Shop Talk Presented by Heather Payton  
5.00 PM Presented by Clare English and Chris Lowe  
6.00 Six O'Clock News  
6.30 Radio Shuttleworth Graham Fellows, in the guise of singer-songwriter John Shuttleworth, presents Patricia Moore to study the strange red glow which appears in the evening outside the bay window of his Sheffield front room  
7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row The nightly arts programme, with Mark Lawson  
7.45 Still Waters by Ann Marie Di Mambro and Robert Paterson (I)  
8.00 File on 4: Topical issues from at home and abroad  
8.40 In Touch Peter White with news for visually impaired people  
9.00 Case Notes Graham Eason discovers how the body clock affects an individual's well-being  
9.30 The Choice with Michael Buerk (I)  
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig  
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulme by Alain-Fournier (7/10) (I)  
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Now Show Stand-up with Dan Freedman, Nick Hornby and Robert Quantock. Jane Bussmann and Simon Munnery (I)  
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Russell Davies presents the weekly guide to films and film-making  
12.00 The Exchange Call 0171-580 4444  
12.30am The Late Book: A Man in Full Part two of Tom Wolfe's new novel, read by William Hoobans  
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 Aa World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 87.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 852, 939. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManera.



SUTTER HOME CALIFORNIA WINES. They don't need food to make sense.



### San Francisco prove easy prey for Atlanta Falcons



## RUGBY UNION 53

### Henry keeps faith with Wales team to face Argentina

# Huddle ready to pair experienced duo at Wembley Dublin defies age concern

BY OLIVER HOIT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A PANOPLY of bright yellows and startling oranges decorated the training grounds at Bisham Abbey yesterday as the trees began to shed their leaves in earnest. In their shadow, a clutch of players entering the autumn of their careers prepared to grasp the chance that has fallen unexpectedly into their path.

In the absence of the injured Alan Shearer and Michael Owen, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, appears to have decided to transform an international that was once intended to be a celebration of England's footballing youth and promise into a tribute night to longevity and the golden oldies of the game.

It seems probable that Ian Wright, who is enjoying a new lease of life at West Ham United, will start the match against the Czech Republic tomorrow at the grand old age of 35 years and 15 days. Alongside him

United's Belgian link — 5  
Fantasy League — 26, 27  
Hendrie unruffed — 50

may be Dion Dublin, a comparative youngster at 29 but a striker for whom success and international recognition has come late in his career. It is hard to argue against the inclusion of either of them. Dublin, in particular, has been in outstanding form and is playing so well that it would be foolish to bet against him being in contention for a place for the 2002 World Cup, let alone the European championship in Belgium and Holland the summer after next.

Rather than fading into his dotage, in fact, Dublin seems to be approaching his peak. He has scored five goals for Aston Villa, his new club, in the two games since his £5.75 million move from Coventry City and his recruitment has been hailed as the signing that might enable John Gregory's side to stay the course in the race for the FA Carling Premiership title.

Dublin, who is as big an influence in the dressing-room as he is on the pitch, a player



Dublin, marked by Sol Campbell in a training match yesterday, seems likely to lead the England attack against the Czech Republic. Photograph: Gill Allen

who is constantly cajoling and encouraging, who has the maturity and stature that many of his peers lack, deserves the chance to establish himself as an international after years of striving to better himself at the margins of the game.

Like Wright, who was a painter and decorator well into his twenties, Dublin did not have the gilded start to his career than many of today's young players have and he talked compellingly yesterday of his early days earning £80 a week as a packer in a Leicester hosiery factory and the time when he was sent out on loan

to King's Lynn when he was a struggling centre forward at Cambridge United.

He went through the torrid times there under John Beck, the cold showers and the markers on the touchlines that the Cambridge players had to aim at when they tried to put the ball into touch as a way of putting the opposition under pressure. He thought he had made it when he was transferred to Manchester United, especially when he scored on his debut, but then a broken leg two weeks later ruined everything and he had to start again at Coventry City.

"It is good to sample all the different walks of life in football before you get to this stage," Dublin said. "It is good to experience different standards. It makes you appreciate what you have got when

things get better. Wherever I was, though, I always dreamed of playing for England. There is no point in having pointless dreams. When you are playing for Cambridge United away at Carlisle, then maybe your main dream is to play in the second division, not the third, but I always believed I was capable of getting to the top.

"Perhaps there was a time a couple of years ago when it was fashionable to have forwards who were a bit quick and tricky rather than so-called traditional centre forwards like me who are strong in the air, but you need to have a player like me in the side for when the chips are down and when you need some grit."

The chips are, indeed, down for Hoddle at the moment. He has been under increasingly

self-inflicted pressure since the start of England's lacklustre European championship qualifying campaign and the match tomorrow should at least provide him with some respite, a breathing space before the crucial meeting with Poland at Wembley on March 27.

"The England coach said that he was still considering whether to involve new faces such as Lee Hendrie, a team-mate of Dublin at Villa, from the start, but his hopes of giving Emile Heskey his first international cap suffered yesterday with the news that both he and Paul Scholes are serious doubts because of ankle and hamstring injuries respectively.

In the circumstances, it was hardly surprising that Hoddle, too, was keen to stress the merits of Dublin. He singled

him out for the character that he had shown in dealing with his late omission from the England World Cup squad last summer.

"He is a good role model for some of the youngsters coming through," Hoddle said. "He and Wright can play as long as they do because they look after themselves and because they love the game. Playing is a labour of love for them and that makes it easy. It lets a new set of curtains open up. Dion has suffered a lot of adversity, but he has come through it like a man."

Wright and Dublin have something else in common, too, apparently: a love of the seashore. For once, though, Dublin was cynical about Wright's commitment. "I've seen his sax," he said. "It looks too nice and clean to me."

# McCoy given cane by Jockey Club

BY CHRIS McGRATH

TONY MCCOY, for thousands of years of betting shop punters the complete National Hunt jockey, was yesterday banned for 18 days and sent back to school as punishment for excessive use of the whip.

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee asked McCoy, who retained his championship with a record 253 winners last season, to attend a day at the British Racing School for instruction in its proper use. This remedial stricture is normally reserved for apprentices and conditional jockeys.

Aware that this may appear rather humiliating treatment of a great champion, the Jockey Club sensibly sugared the pill by restricting McCoy's suspension to 14 racing days, with another four deferred for six months. Other jockeys referred to Portman Square in similar circumstances have been banned for up to 30 days. McCoy, sidelined from Thursday, misses the ride on Cyfor Malta, favourite for the prestigious Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday week.

McCoy has been sufficiently upset by the stewards' disapproval to have spoken angrily, if without much conviction, of bringing his phenomenal career to a premature close. He expressed due contrition, however, when asked about his date at the Racing School. "If it helps to keep me from getting suspended, I'm willing to do it," he said. "I had a very fair hearing and hopefully that'll be the last time I'll be here for a while. I'll have a good holiday and, when I come back, I'll still be as keen to ride winners as ever — hopefully without breaking any rules."

McCoy had excited the attention of the Fontwell stewards last Monday, with a characteristically indomitable ride on Bamapour, winner of the Ford Claiming Hurdle. Having served 15 days for four previ-

ous offences during the past year, he was automatically referred to Portman Square: after conceding yesterday that he had hit Bamapour with excessive frequency, McCoy was doomed to serve a minimum of 14 days.

Almost 6ft tall, McCoy starts himself to ride at 10st — including his saddle — compensating with a voracious appetite for winners. So inexorable has been his march to the top of his profession that it is easy to forget that he is still only 23.

He has been perplexed by the stewards' vigilance, hint-



McCoy: back to school

ing at an irascible side to an otherwise appealing nature. On Saturday, after riding Cyfor Malta to success at Cheltenham, he gave expression to his hurt by throwing his whip into the crowd.

Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club director of regulation, said: "Everyone agrees that he's a great jockey, but sometimes he goes over the top and we can't tolerate a win-at-all-costs attitude."

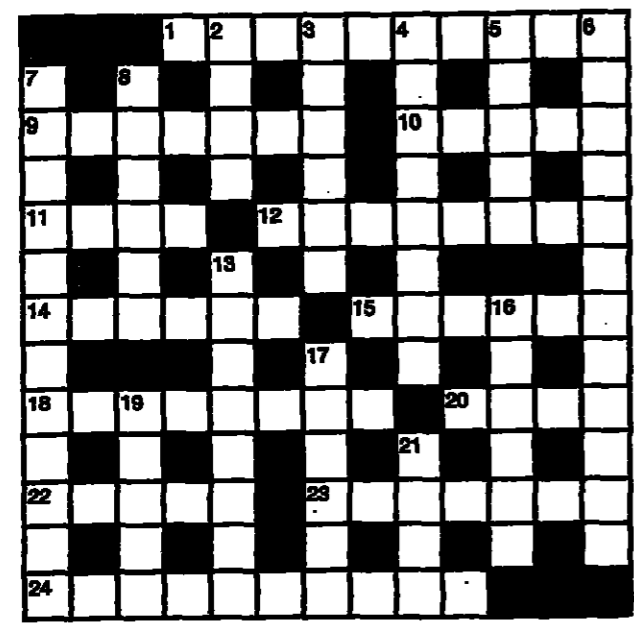
At the Racing School, McCoy will be surrounded by mirrors and video cameras. He will ride an equisitor (mechanical horse) under the supervision of a stewards' secretary.

Method analysis, page 51

## CHAMPION'S WHIP BANS

April 4, Alintree: Banned for four days, later extended to six after an appeal, for using his whip with "excessive force" when riding Fiddlers to victory in the Merton Alintree Hurdle.  
May 8, Stratford: Banned for three days for improper use of the whip after riding Amiah to victory in handicap chase.  
May 15, Stratford: Banned for two days for using his whip with "unreasonable frequency" after finishing second on Ozzie Jones in a handicap chase.  
May 16, Newton Abbot: Banned for four days for using whip with "excessive force" in finishing third on Coy Debutante in a bumper.  
November 9, Fontwell Park: Banned for 18 days for excessive use of whip when riding Bamapour to victory in a claiming hurdle.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1565

- ACROSS
- 1 Acid (pronunciation) test (Judges 12) (10)
  - 9 Comparison drawing similarity (7)
  - 10 Turn round rapidly (5)
  - 11 Ploughing money drawer (4)
  - 12 Substance providing sustenance (8)
  - 14 Lab vessel; quip (6)
  - 15 Fragrant resin; a soother (6)
  - 18 Amicable (8)
  - 20 Shoot sack (4)
  - 22 Centre/circumference lines (5)
  - 23 Holy Land Sea (7)
  - 24 Instinct (5,5)
- DOWN
- 2 Animal's foot (4)
  - 3 Norman tapestry town (6)
  - 4 Sadden (bad) eruption (8)
  - 5 Banishment (5)
  - 6 (House) with exposed beams (4,8)
  - 7 A university degree (6,2,4)
  - 8S traw mattress; goods-stacking frame (6)
  - 13 Shake triumphantly, threateningly (8)
  - 16 Protect (6)
  - 17 Contagious, deadly disease (6)
  - 19 Alphabetical guide (5)
  - 21 Charitable gift (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1564  
ACROSS: 1 Trespas 5 Fuse 7 Sal volatile 8 Pity 9 Indent 10 Cinema 13 Inn 14 Thebes 17 Exodus 18 Silt 19 Tour de force 20 Crow 21 Talk down  
DOWN: 1 Trappist 2 Sway 3 Advertisement 4 Sells one's soul 5 Fettle 6 Select 7 Stodge 11 Riddle 12 Alsatian 15 Honour 16 Burrow 18 Scud

## THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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# Crawley is assaulted by drunkard

TOURING Australia has always presented England cricketers with the ultimate test of temperament on the field, but the abuse traditionally stops there. In Cairns, late on Sunday night, John Crawley fell foul of a different type of attack, one that left his face sufficiently scarred that the England management spent much of yesterday considering further action.

Crawley was attacked by a drunkard while he walked alone, back to the team hotel, shortly after 11pm. According to a team statement, he was "verbally abused and punched by a man who was drunk". Through falling to the ground, he sustained cuts and bruises to his face.

Crawley, who is by no means one of the nocturnal creatures of the tour party, had been socialising with other members of his own team

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAIRNS  
and the Queensland players, and was set upon by what the management yesterday called "an unknown assailant". There is no indication that he was picked upon for being an England cricketer.



Crawley: a need, perhaps, for head protection off the pitch

hick-town reputation means that it is not the most comfortable place to be on a weekend night. Gangs roam the streets and stories abound of attacks on innocent pedestrians.

England had been well looked after in Cairns and the four-day game against Queensland was diligently organised despite a horribly under-prepared pitch, so the attack on Crawley has left a sour taste at the end of what otherwise has been a happy week.

Crawley, who has an even chance of being chosen for the first Test match, starting in Brisbane on Friday, did not appear at the Cazaly's Ground yesterday for the closing stages of England's one-wicket win. Instead, he stayed in the team's quayside hotel, wearing sunglasses over his wounds, but he will resume practice at a fielding session today.

# Wimbledon announces record profit

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WIMBLEDON has announced record profits of £33 million for 1998 — a rise of 6.7 per cent on the 1997 figures. The money, which is donated to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for the improvement of the British game, was due to increased television and merchandising income, plus a record 13-day crowd of 424,998, almost 20,000 up on the previous record.

This year's semi-final between Tim Henman, the British No 1, and Pete Sampras, the world No 1, attracted an audience of 12 million viewers and was one of the year's top televised sporting events.

The LTA also reported increased sales of merchandise

at the championships, especially featuring Henman and Greg Rusedski, who had to pull out of the tournament because of injury.

John Crowther, the LTA chief executive, said: "At a time when Tim and Greg are once again raising the profile of tennis outside the Wimbledon period, we can reflect on the progress of the world's most successful tennis tournament and the contribution it makes to the improving health of the game in this country."

"The revenue from the championships enables the LTA to continue its commitment to improve the tennis in-

frastructure and help more players to a world-class standard. However, the LTA must also generate other sources of income in order to sustain the kind of investment needed to catch up with other leading tennis nations in Europe."

Crowther said that £8.5 million had been spent this year on staging events, tournaments and national coaching in support of the top 180 players. The year's highlights had included Henman reaching the semi-finals at Wimbledon, Rusedski winning a Super Nine event in Paris, both Henman and Rusedski reaching the top ten in the world and Great Britain earning promo-

tion to the world group of the Davis Cup.

Britain had also won the European men's team championship for the first time in 30 years. Sam Smith, the leading British woman, had broken into the top 100 and eight national squads had been set up with 30 Rover international juniors receiving one-on-one coaching. A total of £9.2 million has been spent this year on improving existing facilities and building new tournament venues, county centres and centres of excellence. A further £4.7 million was spent on creating more opportunities to play the sport at grass-roots level.

Hingis thinks big, page 54

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